



THE INDEPENDENT

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beat Oz

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GEORGE HARRIS

KAREN COOPER

JONATHAN WILSON

IN THE MONDAY REVIEW

Blair stands by battered Cook

TONY BLAIR yesterday said he would not sack his Foreign Secretary as disclosures over Robin Cook's disagreements with other cabinet members and his affairs with six women threatened to upset Downing Street's plans for ending the crisis over feuding between the Blair and Brown camps.

Mr Blair expressed full confidence in Mr Cook, describing him as "probably one of the most respected foreign ministers in the rest of Europe that Britain has had for years and years".

Warning against adopting Hollywood-style obsessions with politicians' private lives as seen in the United States, Mr

By COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

Blair said on the BBC's *Breakfast with Frost* programme: "We can either have the news agenda dominated by scandal and gossip and trivia, or we can have it dominated by things that really matter."

In her book, serialised in *The Sunday Times*, Margaret Cook exacts bitter revenge on her ex-husband, who left her to marry his secretary, Gaynor Regan. She alleges that he had at least six affairs during their 28-year marriage. More damagingly, she points out personal rifts within the Cabinet.

She reveals that her former

husband "hated" Peter Mandelson, and that there was bad blood between Mr Cook and Gordon Brown that began when they took opposing sides in the Scottish devolution debate. She also recounts that Tony Blair's ditching of Clause IV of the party constitution "gave Robin digestive problems". She claims Mr Cook admitted he had "sold his soul" to New Labour for high office.

However, the accounts of his sexual adventures - which he confessed to his wife on a weekend in the Lake District - were not seen last night as a sackable offence. Mr Blair has

said he would not tolerate sleaze such as financial im-

propriety among ministers, but he has told friends that he will not sack ministers for sexual affairs and marriage breakdowns. "He has been a rat but not a crook," said a source close to Mr Cook.

As Labour MPs rallied against Mrs Cook, "She appears to have gone from victim to vixen and I don't think that does her any good and I don't think it does women any good either," said Bridget Prentice,

an assistant Government whip. The timing may also be fortunate for Mr Cook, with Mr Mandelson - who wanted his job as foreign secretary - out of the way, and the Government fighting this week to get back to the New Labour modernising agenda, with announcements on education, law and order, and welfare reform.

Women Labour MPs turned against Mrs Cook. "She appears to have gone from victim to vixen and I don't think that does her any good and I don't think it does women any good either," said Bridget Prentice,

had a meeting at the Treasury with Mr Brown to clear the air over their past rivalries.

Mr Cook spent the weekend at his official residence, refusing to be drawn on the detailed allegations, but he authorised a member of his staff to reject the claims by his ex-wife that he had a drink problem: "He is not going to be hitting back at Margaret, but anyone who worked with him would know that he did not have a drink problem."

The Foreign Secretary will this week join in a media blitz organised by Downing Street to reaffirm the New Labour agenda, in spite of the loss of Mr Mandelson, one of its principal architects. Mr Blair yesterday

refused to rule out bringing back Mr Mandelson to the Cabinet, although the objections of senior colleagues, including John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, are likely to make it impossible until after the next general election.

Mr Blair also remained enthusiastic about the closer links with the Liberal Democrats, which are opposed by some cabinet ministers. He believes there is a need for controversy if the media spotlight is to move away from personalities and on to policies, but in the absence of effective Tory opposition, it could mean confrontation with his own back-bench rebels.

Orphans' army off to war

By CATHY COMERFORD

WAR TURNS children into orphans; in many places those orphans are forcibly turned into soldiers.

Half a century of conflict between the government in Burma and rebel ethnic minorities has produced its share.

In Burma, 30 boys aged under 16 are part of a 300-strong group of fighters, part of the Karen National Liberation Army battalion at Kaw Long Cho, a camp near the border with Thailand.

A new report from Amnesty International says at least 300,000 children across the world, from Africa and Latin America to south Asia - some of them aged little more than 10 - are serving as soldiers in combat today.

Forced conflict, page 9



Karen rebels raise their weapons at their camp in Kaw Long Cho, Burma. Many of the rebel soldiers are orphans whose parents have been killed by pro-government forces

McKool Brooke/AP

Kidnapped Briton 'still alive'

By JOHN DAVISON
AND ERIC WATKINS

said that the families had now lost all faith in the British government's handling of the situation.

"As far as we are concerned the response of the Government has been racist and Islamophobic," said Rashad Yacoob, of the Association of Muslim Lawyers.

The men are Shahid Butt, 33, Malik Nassar Harhra, 26, and Samad Ahmed, 21, all of Birmingham; Ghulam Hussein, 25, of Luton, Bedfordshire; and Mohsin Ghahram, 18, of London.

John Brooke, of East Anglia, the oil worker kidnapped in Yemen on Friday, was measured

while said to be fit and well. Mediation was underway to try and secure his early release. This latest incident was said to be part of a tribal dispute and had no direct link to the crisis involving 16 hostages last month.

Scotland Yard investigations continue into the circumstances of the bungled rescue operation on 29 December when three British and one Australian hostage were shot dead.

The Yemeni government has tried to justify the detention of the five British men. It has said that they were planning a bombing campaign in Aden.

Diplomats were yesterday still trying to gain access to the fifth man, having seen the others. No

formal charge has been made against any of them.

All the families deny that the men had any terrorist involvement, and insist that they were in Yemen to learn Arabic or visit relatives.

Tension surrounding that situation increased yesterday following a story in *The Observer* newspaper which suggested that the men were linked to a Muslim extremist group in London, called Supporters of Shariah (SOS). The article only quoted Yemeni government sources, and was condemned as "irresponsible" by representatives of the men's families.

The man alleged to run the group, Abu Hanifa, denied that

DNA tests clear Clinton of fathering boy, 13

By MARY DEJEVSKY
in Washington

HE MAY be the first president this century to be impeached, but there was some good news for Bill Clinton yesterday, with reports that he was not after all the father of an illegitimate boy in his home state of Arkansas.

In an article headed "Scandal Interruptus", *Time* magazine's Internet website reported that DNA tests on the boy, Danny Williams, 13, and his mother, Bobbie Ann, had shown no match with Mr Clinton. "There was no match. Not even close," *Time* quoted a source at the tabloid weekly.

The editor of the tabloid, Phil Burton, had said that he would publish only if the test showed that Mr Clinton could be the father. But news of the investigation leaked out before

the results were ready, reviving rumours that had circulated in Arkansas for years and clogging radio phone-in lines with callers wanting to have their say.

Bobbie Ann Williams, who is black, was said to have told her mixed-race son ever since he was born that Bill Clinton was his father. She says that she was working as a prostitute when her son was conceived and that Mr Clinton was her only white customer that month. However, she never instituted a paternity suit.

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Ministers say the revival of traditional teaching methods is raising standards in maths

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Win for Man United
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So how did our friends in the North spend Christmas?

THIS STUDENT LIFE RETURNS FOR A NEW TERM

THE BEST WRITING, WEEK IN, WEEK OUT: DEBORAH ROSS, HOWARD JACOBSON, HAMISH MCRAE, MARK STEEL, ROBERT FISK, TERENCE BLACKER
JOHN WALSH, RICHARD WILLIAMS, DAVID AARONOVITCH, ANNE McLEVOY, THOMAS SUTCLIFFE, VILLE KINGTON, SUE ARNOLD, ANDREA WHITTEMORE-SMITH



HEALTH
PECS - A NEW SYSTEM
FOR HELPING AUTISTIC
CHILDREN COMMUNICATE
AND LEARN
PLUS MEDIA

Cunningham 'spent cash on private jets'

BY SARAH SCHAEFER
Political Reporter



LABOUR WAS embroiled in a new row over ministerial spending yesterday as Jack Cunningham, the Cabinet Office enforcement officer, was accused of wasting taxpayer's money on travelling in private jets to meetings.

Tory critics claimed that during his time as Agriculture Minister, Dr Cunningham breached rules obliging ministers to ensure they travel by the most cost-effective means.

The allegations surfaced as Tony Blair sought to put the upheavals and turmoil of the Christmas recess behind him by pledging that his Government should be assessed on its record on health, education and reform of the welfare state rather than "scandal and gossip" about individual politicians.

The row erupted after Nick Brown, Dr Cunningham's successor at the agriculture ministry, released details in response to a parliamentary answer showing he had used private jets for seven journeys to Luxembourg, Strasbourg, Rotterdam and Bonn although there were several scheduled flights a day.

The cost of these flights was as much as £6,500 when the average fare for a business return would have been £438.

Mr Brown made clear no private jets had been used by the ministry in the last year of Tory rule nor had he used a private jet since taking office.

Tim Yeo, shadow Agriculture Minister, said Dr Cunningham, Cabinet Office Minister, had "been caught with his snout in the trough". He added: "It appears his penchant for travel-

ling on private jets instead of using scheduled flights, like every normal person, has cost taxpayers thousands of pounds."

But a Cabinet Office spokesman insisted Dr Cunningham had acted within the rules under which travel arrangements are made to maximise the amount of meetings a minister can attend. In

a separate development, Gordon Brown, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, was facing demands for a Downing Street inquiry about his ministerial conduct after reports that the PR firm HMC, partly run by his girlfriend Sarah Macaulay, had been paid £100,000 to promote the New Statesman, owned by former Paymaster General Geoffrey Robinson.

David Heathcoat Amory, the shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury, said Mr Brown was "driving a coach and horses" through the ministerial code of conduct.

He questioned whether the Chancellor knew about the commercial connection when he tried to persuade the Prime Minister last year to keep Mr Robinson in his job.

Mr Robinson resigned on 22 December, blaming his departure on 12 months of "a highly charged political campaign" by the media.

In his criticism, Heathcoat Amory pointed to the ministerial code of conduct under which ministers must guard against any risk of a potential conflict of interest affecting themselves or their spouse or partner.

"It is becoming clear why Mr Brown was so keen to keep his cronies in place - not just to thank him for past favours but to keep his partner in style to which he had become accustomed," he added.

Critics argue that Charlie Whelan, the Chancellor's press secretary, fuelled rumours about the close links between Mr Brown and Mr Robinson last week when he allegedly joked that he could get a copy of the New Statesman before it was published because the Treasury "owned" the magazine.

The companies include the China Ocean Shipping Compa-



Tony Blair talking with Sir David Frost on 'Breakfast with Frost' yesterday. The Prime Minister defended Robin Cook over allegations of philandering, and called for the Government to be judged on results, not the personal lives of ministers

Michael Stephens/PA

Watchdog to investigate Heath

BY SARAH SCHAEFER

SIR EDWARD Heath's commercial links with four companies will be clear to the parliamentary anti-sleaze watchdog today, after it emerged that the former Conservative prime minister had failed to declare them.

Sir Edward has denied allegations that he had breached parliamentary rules, insisting that he was not acting in his capacity as an MP in his role as a paid adviser to the firms.

The companies include the China Ocean Shipping Compa-

nieship with China is also shown by his role as an adviser on the country for investment funds run by Dresdner Kleinwort Benson and CGU.

In a statement, Sir Edward confirmed that he was being paid by the companies, but said that the payments did not have to be declared because he did not lobby on their behalf, speak or ask questions for them in the House of Commons.

He added that the arrangement had been cleared in 1996 by the then parliamentary

commissioner for standards, Sir Gordon Downey.

Matters which are not connected to Parliament do not need to be declared.

"This is quite straightforward, it has all been cleared by Sir Gordon Downey," Sir Edward said.

But Fraser Kemp, the Labour MP for Houghton and Washington East, said he would be referring the matter to Elizabeth Filkin, the new Parliamentary Commissioner, to investigate whether there has

been a breach of rules. "The rules of the House of Commons apply to every member, whether or not he is a former prime minister," he said.

"There have been fantastical claims about probity by Tories over the past few weeks and unless they want to look hypocritical they should share the concern about transparency which is felt by Labour MPs."

Mr Kemp said he was also writing to William Hague, the Conservatives' current leader, urging him for his support.

Whelan book will not be stopped

BY COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

Brown resented Mr Blair winning the leadership and blamed Mr Mandelson; Robin Cook represented Mr Brown and "hated" Mr Mandelson; John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, saw Mr Mandelson's influence over Mr Blair as a "cancer" as the heart of the Government.

Clare Short should not stand Mr Cook and Alastair Campbell, the Prime Minister's spokesman, refused to work with Mr Whelan.

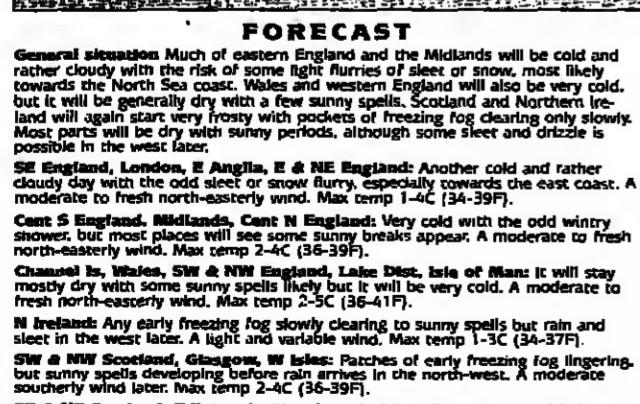
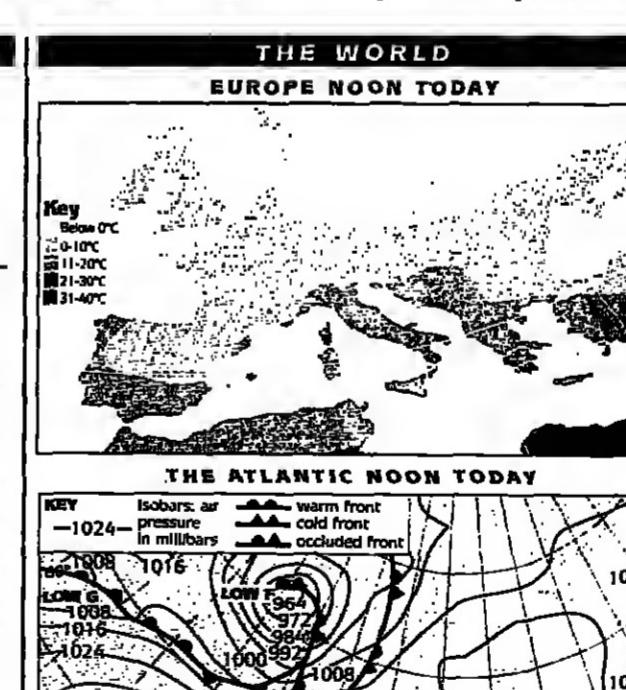
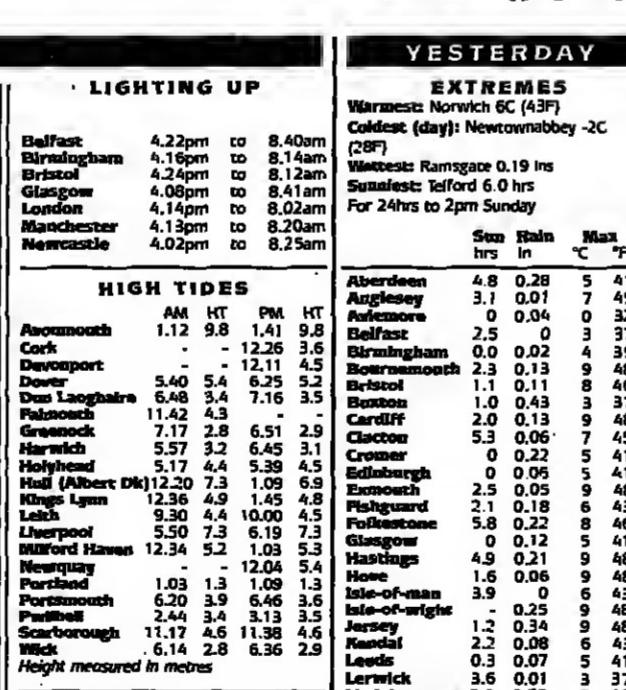
Romola Christopher, a former chief press officer at the Department of Health, yesterday wrote that Mr Campbell was "more at the centre of the big picture than anyone".

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Cloud: Yes											
Wind: 10-15 mph											
Temp: 10°C											

OUTLOOK
Rain will spread eastwards on Tuesday, preceded by snow over the highest ground, particularly in Scotland. This will clear to leave sunny spells but also some heavy showers in the north and west. There will be further periods of rain this week when temperatures will improve somewhat, but overall it will remain cold.

TRAVEL
London: A12 Green Man Roundabout, Leytonstone. Major roadworks on new M11 link road.
Greater Manchester: A10 between Bolton and M61. Resurfacing and bridge maintenance work at Sherratt Mill. Until 14 February.
Bristol: M5 J18-19. Major roadworks on Avonmouth Bridge until 22 June 2000.
Lancashire: M6 Between J27 and J28 Layby. Roadworks, carriageway and a 50mph limit either side of Chorley Tunnel. Until 26 February.
Greater Manchester: A57, M61 lanes Manchester-bound, due to Metrolink con-

struction work. Until 28 February.
South Yorkshire: M1 Between J34 Tinsley Viaduct (A6178), Sheffield. Lane-closure reduced to 2 lanes. Until 14 February.
Dumfries and Galloway: A74 between Beattock and J18 Annandale. Major roadworks, including a 50mph limit. Until 14 February.
Scotland: A14 Peterhead-Dundee. Roadworks and a 50mph limit. Until 26 February.
AA Roadservice: Call 0838 461777 for the latest local and national traffic news. Source: The Automobile Association. Calls charged at 50p per min (inc VAT).

LABOUR IN TURMOIL

What happens when public morality meets an unethical personal policy

BY PAUL VALLEY

"THERE'S ALL this talk about preserving marriages and yet it seems Robin Cook did the right thing by leaving his wife and going off with his mistress and Piers did the wrong thing." So said Helen Merchant fairly recently in a radio interview about why she had not split up with her husband, the disgraced Tory MP Piers Merchant, after his fling with a 17-year-old.

Remember the good old days of Tory sleaze? In the dying days of John Major's Back-to-Basics era, Mr Merchant was caught on tabloid camera kissing and fondling a young woman in a park. He managed to persuade his wife, and more importantly his constituency party, that things were not as they looked, but six months later the *Sunday Mirror* obtained pictures of the pair in bed. Mr Merchant was forced to resign as an MP.

If Mrs Merchant is perplexed in her attempt to pin down the complex formula which governs the political consequences of sexual betrayal, she is not alone. The events of the coming few days will add a little more case law to the puzzling precedents in the field.

Will the Foreign Secretary finally get his comeuppance for dumping his wife at Heathrow on the eve of their annual holiday? Or will the Prime Minister's dismissal yesterday of "a whole lot of nonsense about the personal lives of ministers" be enough to save him - with its plea for a focus on important things like health, education, crime and welfare reform?

Certainly it is hard to detect a consistent pattern in the interaction between sex and politics. The old cliché that Tory scandals centre on sex and Labour's on moeey no longer seems to hold good. Mr Cook seemed safe when his infidelities became public and, with indecent haste, he married his mistress, but his position looks a little more wobbly now.

The Agriculture Minister, Nick Brown, easily shrugged off revelations of his homosexual



Margaret Cook, former wife of the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, leaving her home in Edinburgh yesterday

ity, yet something altogether more hairy did for the former secretary of state for Wales, Roy Davies. Some, but not all, Labour sees it now scandalous, it seems.

History is not much help here. Once, sexual shenanigans were kept quiet, unless, as with the Profumo affair, they were deemed to open the politics to blackmail. He was sleeping with a woman who was also having sex with a Russian spy. Sleeping with the enemy meant something rather different in those days. Nor does it assist much to narrow the question to "Should a politician,

when exposed as a philanderer, drop his wife or his mistress?" Cecil Parkinson was the modern prototype here. The chairman of the Conservative Party under Margaret Thatcher was revealed to have fathered a child by a rather formidable Tory secretary called Sarah Keays.

He dithered between the two, before finally plumping for marital loyalty with his dutiful wife, Ann, standing stony-faced by him. But it was a lose-lose situation - Ms Keays and her handicapped child were left her in straitened circumstances and Mr Parkinson was forced out of frontline politics.

By contrast, the Tory heritage secretary, David Mellor, seemed to have brazened out a much more lurid affair with an actress, Antonia de Sancha, and even more outlandish embellishments concerning teesucking and Chelsea football strips. The sex did not force him from the Cabinet. He only went after allegations that he took holidays from the daughter of a PLO fundraiser. But, after forcing the compliant Mrs Mellor to stand by him in a notorious family photo-call, he dropped her for an aristocrat

ic departmental adviser. It was only after that that the voters of Putoey issued their own reprimand by removing him from office at the last election.

Contrast that with Piers Merchant who, despite dropping his teenage lover for the second time and reconciling once again with his wife, was still forced out of the Commons by his own party officials.

The complicating factor in the political alchemy here was Mr Major's ill-fated Back-to-Basics campaign. It turned sexual morality into a party policy to such an extent that at one point the transport minister

Steven Norris - known to his colleagues as Shagger - seemed under pressure, even though his six lovers were all, by and large, consecutive and all came after his separation from his wife.

So far Labour has managed to avoid such confusion between personal and policy matters. Notwithstanding the contrast between his ethical foreign policy and his not-so-ethical private life, Robin Cook seemed, until this week, to have escaped whipping.

So has anything changed?

The important thing to remember is that in politics it is not the presenting issue which

PLAYING IT DOWN



Judith Mellor at her husband's 'happy family' photo-call

PLAYING IT UP



George Willier and Sarah Keays told all about the baby she had by Cecil Parkinson

Tony Blair may have been right yesterday when he said: "One of the reasons people focus so much on books written about cabinet ministers by their former wives is because on the policy agenda there is not much criticism." But that does not necessarily make the vicarious criticism any less damaging.

There are other factors too. When there is not much other news about, it is quite possible for the press to get overheated about something which might otherwise be allowed to pass.

And then there are cases which become handy sticks with which to beat opponents.

Master in opposition but not in art of the possible

BY COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

Robin Cook with his wife and former secretary, Gaynor

so far as to describe Mr Cook as two-faced," said Mr Howard.

The Foreign Secretary's first error of judgement was to imagine that he could follow the ethical principles in government that he had pronounced upon in opposition. It was compounded by the launch of an ethical foreign policy, which cynical observers said was doomed to failure the moment it was unveiled.

He promised there would be no sales of arms that could be used for internal repression, but in government, he found the Foreign Office impotent to stop the sale of equipment to Indonesia because he could not revoke the export licences which had been granted by the Conservative government.

Critics of Mr Cook attribute these self-inflicted wounds to his arrogance in office. He ran into trouble when his civil service secretary at the Foreign Office complained she had been ditched to make way for Gaynor.

He used for internal repression, but in government, he found the Foreign Office impotent to stop the sale of equipment to Indonesia because he could not revoke the export licences which had been granted by the Conservative government.

His friends were not surprised by the revelations of sexual affairs, but they were shocked by the allegations that he was a drunk, which they strongly rejected. "He will sip a glass of cheap chardonnay in the Foreign Office, and perhaps have a glass of whisky after dinner; but he's not one to reach for the bottle," said one source close to Mr Cook.

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Traditional maths teaching 'a success'

TRADITIONAL TEACHING methods in maths being promoted by the Government are already raising standards, ministers will say today. David Blunkett, Secretary of State for Education, will announce a £55m campaign to ensure all pupils know their times tables and brush up their mental arithmetic as part of a daily numeracy hour.

The money, which would enable all schools to offer the daily hour from September as part of the national numeracy strategy, would help to end 30 years

BY JUDITH JUDD
Education Editor

of poor maths teaching. Mr Blunkett is publishing reports showing the strategy is already improving primary-school maths. Figures from the National Foundation for Educational Research indicate that 11-year-olds in schools piloting the strategy are 12 to 16 months ahead of equivalent pupils two years go.

The start of the drive appears to have been more successful than the first stages of

the national literacy strategy, which began nationally last September.

Reports on literacy published before Christmas showed many teachers had failed to grasp the recommended methods of teaching reading through phonics. Boys continued to lag behind girls and working-class pupils and those from some ethnic minorities made less progress than others.

But today's figures say the numeracy methods are ensuring boys do as well as girls,

pupils with special educational needs are making good progress and those from ethnic minorities are doing better. There has been a marked improvement in pupils' mental arithmetic.

Mr Blunkett said: "For perhaps 30 years we have not focused on what we know works. The new daily maths lesson will ensure children know their tables, can do basic sums in their heads and are taught effectively in whole-class settings."

The methods outlined in the strategy are not compulsory but

schools that refuse to use them will be criticised if they fail to raise standards.

Ministers have set a target for 75 per cent of 11-year-olds to reach the expected standard in maths by 2002. The £55m package for 1999-2000 includes £5m for local education authorities to help train teachers as well as money for maths summer schools and family numeracy projects.

A further £18m will go to maths revision classes, after school, at weekends and in the Easter holidays to prepare 11-year-olds for the transfer to secondary school.

Nearly 800 out of 20,000 primary schools are using the methods recommended by the strategy, which is based on the previous government's National Numeracy Project.

Teachers are worried that the new strategy is too prescriptive. Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said: "Teachers will appreciate the advice and guidance but they must not be dictated to and should be free to use their own professional judgement.

Rote learning of multiplication tables doesn't mean that you understand maths."

Inspectors from the Office for Standards in Education, who surveyed 211 schools, say progress towards the 2002 targets "will be neither even nor straightforward", because of year-by-year fluctuations in performance, writes Ben Russell.

In a report to be published today they say they are pleased that most schools in the pilot were in deprived areas and had low scores in previous national curriculum tests. "The project has improved many aspects of the way teachers plan, organise and carry out teaching of mathematics. In these respects it has shown a significant success."

"It has brought substantial improvement in some weak schools. A much greater degree of support and intervention will be required, however, in the small but significant minority of schools where deep-seated weaknesses in leadership, management and the quality of teaching combine to reduce the impact of the project."

Jack Straw urged to reveal report on Blair Peach

BY IAN BURRELL
Home Affairs Correspondent



Celia Stubbs: Her partner was killed 20 years ago

JACK STRAW, the Home Secretary, has been urged to reopen the file on Blair Peach to mark the 20th anniversary of his death. The New Zealand-born teacher was killed as police charged anti-racist demonstrators in Southall, west London.

Mr Peach's partner, Celia Stubbs, who attended the fatal protest on 23 April 1979, has written to Mr Straw saying that she has never been allowed to see the official police report into the tragedy.

As a young backbencher, Mr Straw was one of the first of 150 MPs to sign an early day motion calling for a public judicial inquiry into Mr Peach's death.

The Conservative home secretary at the time, William Whitelaw, refused a public inquiry. An internal Metropolitan Police investigation by Commander John Cass was never released. An inquest recorded a verdict of "death by misadventure", though 11 witnesses had reported seeing Mr Peach struck by police.

Ms Stubbs, 58, a social worker in Islington, north London, has written to the Home Secretary asking for a meeting. "Jack Straw was one of the first

politicians to take an interest in this case but there are still many issues that are unresolved," she said.

She would like to see a copy of the Case report and to ask Mr Straw to meet community leaders in Southall to discuss the continued racial tension in the area.

Ms Stubbs, who still works with anti-racist groups in Southall, said: "After 20 years of very little, it would be nice to just have the courtesy of a meeting with the Home Secretary to discuss what has changed."

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He was a prominent anti-racist campaigner who had led a successful campaign to close down a National Front building in the middle of the Bangladeshi community around Brick Lane. Ms Stubbs said: "He felt that racism should be tackled. You should never let it lie."

Hundreds of the Southall protesters were arrested as they were dispersed by police. Forced down a side street, Mr Peach suffered serious head injuries, following a charge by the Special Patrol Group. A local Aslan family helped him into their home and called an ambulance but he was dead on arrival at hospital.

Ms Stubbs will tomorrow launch the Blair Peach 20th Anniversary Committee which will fight for more anti-racist education in schools. She said: "The race issue has been abandoned in schools because of the pressures of the curriculum."

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Health crisis: As hospitals struggle to cope, doctors claim patients have died because of delays in treatment

Patients 'harmed' by cash rationing

BY SARAH WILSON

Mr Dobson is likely to face tough criticism over the handling of the influenza outbreak as MPs return to the Commons today. He admitted last week that the flu outbreak had provoked a "crisis" in the NHS and hospitals were continuing to struggle as the weather turned cold again yesterday.

One in five doctors responding to the survey have seen patients who have suffered from rationing, while one in twenty reported that patients had died as a result of delayed or denied treatment.

The statistics were revealed in a survey of nearly 3,000 hospital doctors and GPs by *Doctor* magazine.

Phil Johnson, the editor of *Doctor*, said: "Like a child hiding under the bed covers, the Government imagines the problems of rationing is a monster that will go away if it refuses to acknowledge it."

"Ministers must realise it is not about apportioning blame. It is about being mature to concede that the NHS is not equipped to cope with demand and courageous enough to lay it on the line for the public."

Meanwhile, the Royal College of Nursing is expected to release new figures today based on a survey of NHS trusts, which show a shortage of between 12,000 and 13,000 full-time nurses, compared with the previous estimate of 8,000.

The RCN figures will add further weight to their contention that nurses should receive their pay award in full this year rather than having to wait for it to be phased in over three years.

In an attempt to make hospital managers more accountable, Frank Dobson, the Secretary of State for Health, is to create a new commission for improving health standards.

At present, NHS trust managers are merely required to balance the books. But the new commission would also expect managers to ensure high standards of care.

Indeed. On Saturday morn-

Dave Hales, who suffered a whiplash injury in a car crash, is seen by a doctor at the hospital, which has been operating beyond its capacity since Christmas Andrew Fox

Hourly dramas in a real-life 'Casualty'

BY SARAH WILSON

THERE IS no coffee brewing in the staff rest room at the Manor Hospital in Walsall, near Birmingham. No magazines or newspapers scattered around the tables.

The idea that the nurses in the intensive care unit might have time for a break provokes a hollow laugh from the sister in charge. They have been operating over-capacity since Christmas, and forced to rely heavily on agency nurses. And the pressure is showing no signs of letting up.

The picture has been similar at casualty. On New Year's Day the cases were mounting so fast the A&E had to close briefly, something that rarely happens at The Manor. John Rostill, the chief executive, said: "We can predict there will be excess and take precautions to cope with it. But we cannot predict when or where the excess is going to come. There is always somewhere somebody under pressure."

Shortly afterwards, Shaun Painter is brought into the trauma area cradling his three-year-old son, Jack, also spouting blood from his head. "I



Walsall's Manor Hospital: No time for even a coffee

don't know what happened: my girlfriend came in screaming, with Jack in her arms," said Mr Painter. "I was in the car with him before I had time to stop and ask." The prognosis looked better after Jack was cleaned up. He would need a few stitches, but probably nothing more.

At the Manor some pressure is taken off casualty by having

managed to avoid leaving patients on trolleys in the corridor. But only by expecting super-human efforts from its staff.

"We were hanging on by our thumbnails last week," said Ziggy Ezikwa, the staff physici-

an on the ward.

Patients were on their way

to hospital before beds in the

ward had been cleared. At the

height of the crisis, medical ad-

missions were forced to com-

mendee two surgical wards to

cope with their overspill. "Electric

surgery collapsed, because

we stole their beds," said Dr

Ezikwa. Managers mucked in,

making beds to help clear the

hospitals. "The Manor has a bet-

ter reputation for efficiency

than most hospitals in the area.

But after nine years in nurs-

ing, Sister Osbourne has had

enough: she handed in her no-

tice last week. Nurses with her

skills and experience are at a

premium in the NHS and man-

agers are trying to persuade

her to stay by offering a new

timetabling arrangement.

"The bed crisis is nothing new," she said. "We have an ageing population and there aren't enough beds for them. There are certainly not enough nurses." Violence also plays a part. Janet Brookes, overseeing the night shift in casualty, said:

"When I first started 20 years ago, stabbings were rare. Now we get gunshot wounds about once a month."

Shortening the hours of junior doctors has also put pres-

sure on nurses, because the extra work has largely fallen to them. All this for very little money. "I have a friend who qualified as a teacher about the same time as I did and her pay is a lot better," said Sister

Brookes. "She once said 'I've

had such a stressful time, we

had to spend the whole week

preparing for a visit from the

Bishop.' I told her that in one

day that week I'd had to deal

with two cardiac arrests, one

death and a schizophrenic who

had to be sectioned. I think my

day beat her week."

Sixties activist sues Random House over 'damaging lies'

BY JOHN WALSH

CAROLINE COON, once the epitome of Sixties hippie chick, a former artist, model and ballerina, turned radical activist and co-founder of Release, the drug advice organisation, is suing Random House, Britain's largest publishing conglomerate, for libel.

Ms Coon claims the company printed "libellous damaging lies" and "a sexist fraud" about her and the female fundraisers of Release, in the book *All Dressed Up* by Jonathan Green, published in August last year by Jonathan Green, published in August last year by Jonathan Green.

The book is a long, exhaustive history of the "counterculture" that prevailed among hip metropolitans during the Sixties: the rock bands and their bangers-on, the drugs scene, the clubs, the "underground" magazines, the avant-garde

publishers received a solicitor's letter from Ms Coon. Two days later, they received another from one of the pop stars, flatly denying the sex-for-charity story. On the basis of the latter complaint, Random House withdrew the book from the nation's bookshops. By December, they had reached an agreement with the pop star, paid costs and damages and agreed to make an apology in open court. The book *All Dressed Up* will now be republished in July this year, with the offending passages removed.

It is understood that Ms Coon was also offered an apology and a sum of money (believed to be £5,000) by Random House, but turned both of them down. In a recent communication to friends, however, Ms Coon complains that Gail

Rebuck, chief executive of the publishing empire, "is refusing to compensate for this deception of the reading public by making a sincere apology to those her company have distressed and damaged"; and that she failed to make "an appropriate financial settlement".

What do not believe that we believed Ms Coon," said Dan Franklin, publishing director of Cape. "She isn't even mentioned in the offending paragraph. Neither Jonathan Green nor I have anything but respect for everything she has achieved with Release."

"Random House must explain their behaviour to a judge and jury," says Ms Coon.



Coon (top) in the Sixties and in the Nineties: Turned down settlement

Easy listening station deserts lounge lizards

BY RHYL WILLIAMS

THIS IS A sad week for lounge lizards. On Thursday, easy listening will be silenced when the radio station whose velvety tones have caressed Londoners' ears for nearly a decade croons its last.

On Friday morning Melody Radio, purveyors of Burt Bacharach, Herb Alpert and Nat King Cole since 1980, becomes Magic 105.4. The new station, created after Emap Radio's takeover of Melody last year, will provide yet another home in the capital for the music of George Michael, Celine Dion and Simply Red.

However, faced by accusations that Magic will simply act as an outlet for artists already served by Virgin, Heart FM and Capital, executives insist the new station will be different from its commercial rivals.

But when easy listening flattered with fashionability in the mid-Nineties, Melody found itself at the forefront of popular culture. The station rode the wave as its audience briefly passed one million but, in the end, there was only so much Julio Iglesias a well-developed sense of irony could take.

Critics see the rebranding of Melody as a further erosion of choice in the capital, as yet another station is turned over to bland, adult-orientated rock (AOR) artists whose works can be heard elsewhere.

"I guess this means 'Hasta La Vista' to the lounge lizards," said Richard Cook, the radio critic with the London listings magazine *Time Out*.

"Once again music is being subsumed into that primordial pap that is AOR."

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Sebastian Haffner

SEBASTIAN HAFFNER was well known in German journalistic circles for over 60 years. He became known to British readers through his first book, *Germany: Jekyll and Hyde*, published by Secker and Warburg in 1940, the overt purpose of which was to explain Germany to the British.

Born Raimund Pretzel in Berlin in 1907, he studied law while working for the German press in the late 1920s and early 1930s. Because of his democratic beliefs and Jewish girlfriend (and later wife), he had his share of difficulties with the Nazis. He left Germany for Britain, where he persevered in gaining the necessary language skills to continue his career.

Fear of Nazi retribution against his relatives in Germany caused him to change his name to Sebastian Haffner. And it was under this name that he became familiar to British newspaper readers. During the war, he worked for the Foreign Office on anti-Nazi propaganda. For many years he was associated with *The Observer* and he returned to Berlin in 1954 as that paper's correspondent. He later wrote for a variety of German publications like *Stern*, *Die Welt* and *Süddeutsche Zeitung*.

Many members of the literary and journalistic emigration chose not to go back to West Germany. Some, like

Bertolt Brecht, Ludwig Renn, Anna Seghers and the still active Stefan Heym, opted for the "anti-Fascist" German Democratic Republic. Others, like Stefan Lorant, founder of *Pictorial Post*, and most of the Hollywood émigrés, decided to stay in the United States or Britain. Returning was a brave step for Haffner to take.

There was the massive psychological problem of going back to a country in ruins both physically and spiritually. There was still much hostility to returning émigrés. In private one could hear the view that, although Hitler had gone too far, the Jews had brought it on themselves by being too "pushy". Returning émigrés were feared as rivals for jobs. Some regarded them simply as agents for the occupying powers who were inflicting once again, unfair burdens on the Germans to prevent them succeeding too well economically. Literary émigrés were regarded as part of a process of thought control to make the Germans feel guilty and therefore amenable to the measures imposed upon them by the victors.

Haffner did not fit into any stereotype. He was difficult to pigeonhole. He was a genuine seeker after truth. Obviously he did worry about where divided Germany was going. Despite



He battled to understand what had gone wrong, between 1933 and 1945, in the country he loved. It became his life's mission

the economic "miracle" of the 1950s there was much to worry about.

The so-called *Spiegel* affair of 1962 shocked opinion in Germany and abroad. Rudolf Augustin, the owner-editor of the prestigious and popular weekly *Der Spiegel*, was arrested, as was the magazine's defence correspondent Conrad Ahlers. Using the public interest argument *Spiegel* had published claimed Nato material claiming West Germany was not properly equipped to defend itself and revealing the massive casualties Germany (and Britain) would suffer in case of a conflict. Controversy surrounded the question of who had or-

dered the arrests, as the relevant Minister of Justice, Wolfgang Stammberger, had not. Stammberger subsequently resigned in protest.

Although he denied it, Franz Josef Strauss, the Defence Minister, had personally ordered the arrest of Ahlers, who was taken while on holiday in Spain. There were widespread protests in Germany and abroad. This was the time of the Cuban missile crisis, when fear of nuclear war was very real. Haffner wrote, "The question is whether the Federal Republic of Germany is still a free and constitutional democracy or whether it has become pos-

sible to transform it overnight by some sort of coup d'état based on fear and arbitrary power." He feared the federal system of West Germany was being undermined. Happily he was wrong. His views were echoed in other papers and Strauss was forced out of office. Augustin and Ahlers continued their successful careers.

Another scandal broke in 1968. This involved a number of suicides by individuals in the military or civil service. On 8 October 1968 Maj-Gen Horst Wendland, deputy head of the Federal Intelligence Service (BND), shot himself. On the same day Admiral Hermann Lütke, deputy head of logistics at Nato, killed himself. Four other similar deaths occurred in the same month. At the same time a group of seven scientists and engineers disappeared, only to re-emerge in Communist East Germany. The authorities passed off the incidents as unrelated.

Most people were clear that the West Germans had a massive security problem. Writing in the *New Statesman* Haffner agreed that they had. He was quick to point out, however, that others had too. "But what about Blake and Philby? What about Wennerstrom and Penkowski (Swedish and Soviet defectors respectively)? It is safe to assume

nowadays that there are undetectable highly placed spies in every defence organisation in the world."

Haffner appeared to think it was a good thing that "everybody knows about everybody else". This would make war less likely.

Haffner was also respected as a writer on historical themes. He presented Winston Churchill to the Germans in 1967. His 1986 book on the German revolution, *Die verratenen Revolutionen* ("The Betrayed Revolution") was an attack on the Social Democratic leaders of 1919. *Anmerkungen zu Hitler* ("Comments on Hitler") was a German best-seller in 1978. *Preussen ohne Legende* ("Prussia without Myths") was widely read and discussed in Germany and Austria. Weidenfeld & Nicolson published it in English in 1980 under the slightly more academic title of *The Rise and Fall of Prussia*.

Haffner knew his market; he knew what would sell. His Prussian study appeared when there was renewed interest in Prussia in both parts of Germany. Indeed, the fight was on for the soul of the vanished and formally abolished Prussian state. Haffner was of course deeply interested in his subjects. Like so many Germans and German Jews of his generation, he battled to understand what had gone wrong between 1933 and 1945, in the country he loved. In his case it was his life's mission.

Haffner long regarded himself as a "Prussian with a British passport". He identified with Prussia and its achievements: general compulsory schooling (1717), the establishment of religious toleration (1710), Bismarck's welfare state (1883), the medical giants Virchow, Koch, von Behring, the intellectual giants Kant, von Humboldt and von Schlegel, and much more. At the end of his book he recounted the (often-ignored) expulsion of millions of Prussians from their homeland in 1945. "It was an atrocity, the final atrocity of a war which had more than its share in atrocities, admittedly begun by Germany under Hitler." His message is very relevant today, when he praises those expelled for rejecting revenge and having the courage to say, "This is enough".

Haffner's last book, *From Bismarck to Hitler*, appeared in 1987.

DAVID CHILDS

Raimund Pretzel (Sebastian Haffner), writer and journalist; born Berlin 27 December 1907; married (one son, one daughter); died Berlin 2 January 1998.

James Hammerstein



Discussing various actors with whom he had once worked, he said he sometimes wished he had got deaf younger

Mostly though, he showed his pride and pleasure in it, travelling about the world overseeing productions of his father's musicals, and receiving awards on their behalf with a laconic and beguiling grace.

Still, he was blessed in his work, and more importantly blessed in his wife and children, becoming even busier and feeling even more blessed after he discovered a few years ago that he had a heart condition. Although he found his increasing deafness a great nuisance, he did say when discussing various actors with whom he had once worked, that he was sometimes wished he had got deaf younger.

He was a man of great but almost invisible elegance. You never noticed what he was wearing, he made no show of his innate good manners, and his natural kindness was offered tentatively with a shyness. His air of sagacity, completely unassumed though not always relevant, sometimes led him into positions of unwanted authority. In impromptu games of any sort, he was invariably appointed score-keeper, referee, which was all right by him as long as he was allowed to play too. Tall

and unfairly handsome, he reminded one of long-gone film stars - a been ideal, American style. Inevitably women found him sexy and sympathetic: men liked and admired him in spite of that.

He had only one truly irritating characteristic. When playing tennis or ping-pong, he had a habit of complimenting his opponent on a shot, even as he was returning it unplayably. I remember one game, from about a quarter of a century ago, when I was so tormented by his lethal combination of good manners and swift reflexes, that I met his conclusive "Hey, good shot, Sir!" with a volley of oaths. He was a jolly good winner and I was a rotten loser, but then I have no idea what he could have been like as a loser which isn't fair of course. There was only my own social disgrace in losing to him - he was the most complete sportsman I've ever come across.

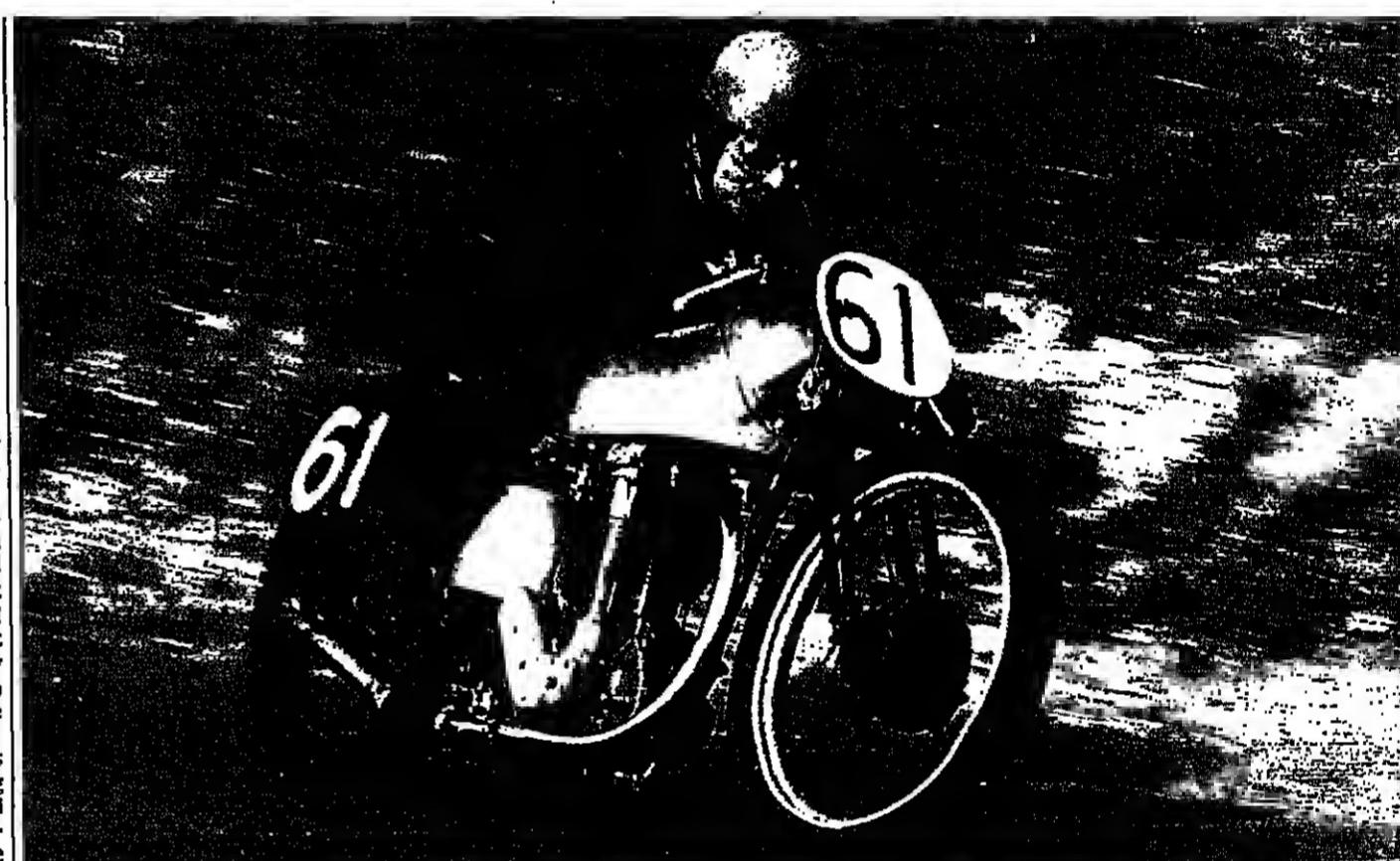
As a young man he played tennis to a professional level (when living in London he played at Queen's and had represented the club in tournaments), and as an older one he was good enough to mix it with veteran champions. He was a marvellous swimmer and diver, and in these last years took up golf as well as well!

Hammerstein, like many of us, I think, was most himself at play, and I know that my most vivid memories are of him in movement - in the water, on the tennis court, dealing cards, simultaneously concentrating and relaxed, full of enjoyment.

He died in the arms of his beloved Dena, with their beloved son Simon close by, after celebrating the 100th performance of one of his current off-Broadway successes, *Over the River and Through the Woods*. A decent enough way to go, at least so everyone says, but too soon, indecently soon, for those many who loved him. James Hammerstein, such a son to his father, and such a father to his children, has made quite a few feel partly orphaned all over again. "Wow," he'd probably say, with his sudden boy's grin, "Hey, guys, I didn't mean it to be like that, I really didn't!"

SIMON GRAY

James Hammerstein, theatre director and producer; born New York 23 March 1931; married three times (three sons, one daughter); died New York 7 January 1999.



Heath made his racing debut in 1934 in a Morgan three-wheeler and turned professional in 1949

Phil Heath

ONE OF the final links with 1930s racing at Donington Park in Leicestershire was broken with the death of Phil Heath. Today Donington is the established host to the British Motorcycle Grand Prix; Heath knew it as a parkland racecourse in more carefree days and in recent times was an organiser in classic racing.

He was born in 1915, the son of a Leicester insurance agent; he was educated at Oakham School and teamed with a friend he met there to make his racing debut in 1934. It was in a Morgan three-wheeler, previously used by Robin Jackson to win a 100mph Gold Star at Brooklands in Surrey and the novice

soon for those many who loved him. James Hammerstein, such a son to his father, and such a father to his children, has made quite a few feel partly orphaned all over again. "Wow," he'd probably say, with his sudden boy's grin, "Hey, guys, I didn't mean it to be like that, I really didn't!"

Heath's study into sleep deprivation in the 1950s became a national event when West convinced a disc jockey, Peter Tripp, to broadcast live for 200 hours without stopping. The DJ suffered temporary physical and mental illness in the process.

In another prominent study, also in the 1950s, West was appointed to a panel to discover why 36 of 58 airmen captured in Korea confessed or co-operated in charges of war crimes against the United States. Some called the airmen cowards, others raised the fear that the Communists had found drugs or mysterious methods to induce "brainwashing".

West, through interviews with the

servicemen, offered a simpler explanation: "What we found enabled us to rule out drugs, hypnosis or other mysterious trickery," he said. "It was just one device used to confuse, bewilder and torment our men until they were ready to confess to anything. That device was prolonged, chronic loss of sleep."

The study concluded that sleep deprivation, combined with the fear of harm and total dependence on their captors, had led the airmen into startling and long-lasting personality changes. West's work saved the airmen from court-martial and expanded the findings to uncover the vulnerability of people in general, and particularly children. He argued that children may become violent when exposed to coercion and violence within their families, and was one of the first to demonstrate that inflicting painful punishment was not a part of good child-rearing.

Davison's *The Racing Year* (1950) remains one of the most evocative accounts of racing in that period.

This nomadic life was a good learning ground, both in riding skills and in negotiating start-money with race promoters. At their first race the body of the ageing sidecar collapsed and Heath had to perch on the chassis tubes to stay aboard, but the veteran Norton earned its keep.

"It was our start-money goldmine," Buxton explains. "We could get as much as £50 for starting with the sidecar - the European organisers loved them."

Heath met his wife, Annette, then a young journalist, at a Belgian race meeting. They married in 1953 and he carried on the perilous life of a professional racer, Annette riding her little FN machine to fetch and carry spares. When Heath retired from full-time racing, he worked as a sales representative for the Excelsior Company of Birmingham and later sold advertising for the emer-

gent newspaper *Motor Cycle News*.

He never retired officially, dividing his time between freelance writing, selling the spares that filled the extensive glasshouses to the grounds of the family home in Leicestershire, and running the library service for the Vintage Motor Cycle Club, of which he was a founder member. When Donington Park circuit was reopened in 1977, he was part of the celebratory parade, as one of the oldest original competitors from the original circuit.

He was due to spend time on research work in the Vintage Club's headquarters in Burton-on-Trent on Christmas Eve, and spent the night with a friend at what he called his "halfway house" stop in Ibstock, but on 24 December he did not wake up.

JIM REYNOLDS

Frank Philip Heath, motorcycle racer; born 18 January 1915; married (one daughter); died Rostock, Leicestershire 23 December 1998.

Dr Louis Jolyon West



Studies of sleep deprivation

LOUIS JOLYON WEST devoted his professional energies to the outer reaches of human experience. Over the course of his career as a leading US psychiatrist and cult expert, he examined "brainwashed" prisoners of war, victims of kidnapping and abused children; later his research included post-traumatic stress syndrome, alcohol and drug abuse, pain, sleep problems, dreams and hypnosis. He was able to overturn many pre-existing concepts of the psychiatric community and those of the community at large.

West examined Jack Ruby, the killer of John F Kennedy's assassin Lee Harvey Oswald, and helped convince the court that Ruby should not be sentenced to death. Ruby, he said, suffered from "major mental illness" apparently precipitated by the stress of his trial and its aftermath.

In 1976, West was called as a court

appointed witness in the defence of Patricia Hearst after her kidnapping. West, along with four other empanelled psychiatrists, found she was sane and able to stand trial but "psychologically damaged as a result of torture". They recommended she be treated before the trial, a recommendation ignored by the court.

In a speech after the heiress's conviction, West concluded, "The government finished the destruction of her life started by an anti-government group."

In the 1950s and early 1960s, he aided civil rights workers who led lunch counter sit-ins, and became the first white psychiatrist to go to South Africa to testify on behalf of black prisoners as part of an attempt to end apartheid. After witnessing a gruesome execution in Wisconsin, he for years led a movement of doctors against the death penalty. West bought a touch of flamboy-

ance to the business of psychiatry and loved his role as one of America's first celebrity shrinks. Dr Milton H. Miller, a long-time colleague, described "Jolly" West as "above all, a colourful figure, an alive person who lived being on the stage".

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West's belief in that principle led him to study the Tarahumara Indians in south-western Chihuahua, Mexico. In a paper, he described how they held non-violence as one of the highest principles of

their society and never physically punished their children. The result, he said, was that the Tarahumara children grew up without learning expressions of anger or rage, and violent crimes were almost unknown amongst the tribe.

West's belief in non-violence would lead him into confrontation in the early 1970s when he proposed the establishment of a centre to be the "world's first and only centre for the study of interpersonal violence". However, his proposal included descriptions of human experiments, including psychosurgery to alter behaviour. The plan drew vehement protest, despite support from the then Governor of California, Ronald Reagan, failed.

Louis Jolyon West was born in Brooklyn, New York, to a Ukrainian immigrant and a Brooklyn piano teacher. He received his medical degree from the University of Min-

nesota and did his psychiatric residency at New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center. At the age of 29 he became chairman of the psychiatry department at the University of Oklahoma School of Medicine, where he remained until 1969, when he became chairman of psychiatry and head of the Neuropsychiatric Institute at the University of California at Los Angeles.

West retired in 1989 but remained a prominent and popular figure in psychiatry. In 1997, he was sought out to give his insight on cults when the Heaven's Gate cult staged a mass suicide in San Diego to join, as they saw it, their saviours following in the tail of a passing asteroid.

EDWARD HELMORE

Louis Jolyon West, psychiatrist; born New York 6 October 1924; married (one son, two daughters); died Los Angeles 2 January 1999.

Joe Vito

Early hunters gathered all-time extinctions record

BY STEVE CONNOR
Science Editor

HE WAS supposed to be the Noble Savage who was at one with nature, but new research suggests that wherever early Man went, mass extinction was sure to follow.

It has always been difficult to explain why so many of the world's largest animals - the "megafauna" - had disappeared so quickly from different regions of the world over the past 100,000 years.

Climate change was considered the reason for the extinction of giant sloths in South America, huge flightless birds in Madagascar, the sabre-toothed cats of North America and even the megatherios in Australia.

In a few thousand years Australia lost all 19 species of marsupials over 100kg in size, and 22 out of 38 species between 10 and 100kg. South America fared even worse. It lost 46 of its 58 groups of large animals, including Glyptodonts (armadillos the size of vans), Macrauchenia, a long-necked



Scientists blame Stone Age man for wiping out big beasts like the American sabre-toothed cat (left) and giant land sloth (right). In Australia (centre) Man is believed

Science Photo Library/Natural History Museum

to be behind the extinction of 'megafauna' including marsupial lions and huge wombats. The koala survives

death of the megafauna with the emergence of Stone Age people at the end of the Pleistocene era - between 100,000 and 10,000 years ago.

Professor Gifford Miller, a scientist who dates fossils at the University of Colorado at Boulder, believes he has the first firm evidence linking the

collapse of the megafauna with the arrival of the first humans at the end of the Pleistocene era - between 100,000 and 10,000 years ago. His team of researchers focused on the dating of pieces of fossilised eggshell left behind by *Gonyornis*, a giant flightless bird.

The scientists found that none of the eggshell fragments they analysed were younger than 50,000 years old. This coincides nicely with the date when the first humans arrived on the continent. "I think we

have compelling evidence that the *Gonyornis* extinction date is applicable to the majority of Australian megafauna," Professor Miller said.

The scientists believe that with the arrival of the first human colonisers, Australia's

landscape underwent a radical change which ultimately killed off the larger animals, from giant horned tortoises as big as VW beetles and wombats the size of rhinos, to a 25-foot-long snake and a one-ton lizard.

The new arrivals are

thought to have pioneered a system of land management used until recently by Aboriginal people, who would start bushfires in order to stimulate grass growth and encourage fresh game. "We suspect the systematic burning by the ear-

liest colonisers differed enough from the natural fire cycle that key ecosystems were pushed past a threshold from which they could not recover," Professor Miller said.

Colin Tudge, a research fellow at the Centre for Philosophy at the London School of Economics, said there is now overwhelming evidence to suggest that humans were responsible for the "overkill" at the end of the Pleistocene era. "Soon after you get humans arriving on a big continent or island, you get animals disappearing," Mr Tudge said. The only exception is Africa, where humans and big animals co-evolved for 2 million years.

"Unlike the creatures of the Americas and Australia were totally unused to human ways," Mr Tudge said.

"However it happened, it shows that the idea of a 'noble savage' in tune with the animals around him is a lie. The only animals we are in harmony with are the ones that we failed to knock on the head," said Mr Tudge.

Drug tsar to target 'rich kid' addicts

BY JASON BENNETTO
Crime Correspondent

YOUNG MIDDLE-CLASS "recreational" drug users are to be targeted in a national anti-drugs campaign that will stress the harmful impact on the environment and human rights of taking illegal substances.

Warnings about the long jail sentences that drug convictions can carry and the dangers of driving while under the influence of drugs will also be used to frighten off "recreational" users, including university students. The switch in tactics is to be introduced by Keith Hellawell, Britain's drugs "tsar", following concern that campaigns are failing to reach young "achievers" and clubbers.

Mr Hellawell, in an interview with *The Independent*, also revealed that he will encourage the makers of television soap operas, including *Coronation Street* and *EastEnders*, to include story lines that highlight the consequences of taking drugs. He is to meet regional newspaper, radio, and television editors to urge them to include more information about the long prison sentences involved and the medical and social repercussions of drug-taking. Schools will also be encouraged to teach students the jail terms drug offences carry.

The move is an attempt to persuade what Mr Hellawell terms the "rich kids", university students and clubgoers, into giving up drugs. He is particularly worried that research suggests that heroin is being used as a "recreational" drug and that the young "achievers" believe they can take substances, such as ecstasy, cocaine and cannabis, without harmful effects.

Mr Hellawell, the UK's Drugs Co-ordinator, said: "I am talking about a group of 'rich young kids' - young achievers in their late teens and early 20s who don't have to commit crime to pay for their drugs."

"They are critical of people who drink and drive, of human rights and pollution." He added:

Clubbers switch to cheap cocaine

BY JANE HUGHES

LONDON CLUBBERS are rejecting ecstasy amid growing fears about the dangers of the drug and switching to cocaine as its market price falls, according to a new survey.

Researchers from the Institute for the Study of Drug Dependence say that cocaine is increasingly viewed as a fashionable substitute for ecstasy and amphetamines, the two drugs most often linked to the club scene.

Young people in London are said to be switching to it as prices of the drug, traditionally associated with rock stars,

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Victims of war: Boys as young as 10 press-ganged into armies

300,000 children 'forced to fight'

ACROSS THE world, from Africa and Latin America to south Asia, at least 300,000 children - some of them aged little more than 10 - are actively serving as soldiers in combat, a new report from Amnesty International says today.

A wealth of case studies published by the human rights group paints a horrifying picture of children at war. Press-ganged by thugs, often after seeing parents and relatives murdered before their eyes, they are thrown into combat. The boys may be stoked by drugs and alcohol; girl soldiers, invariably, are forced to provide sexual services to their masters.

The reasons for the growing involvement of children in con-

BY RUPERT CORNWELL

flict are several. One is the changing nature of war, in which conflict between states with regular armies has become a rarity replaced by dirty wars within states, which invariably drag in the civilian population, and continue for years, usually over much the same territory. Uganda, Sierra Leone, and Kurdistan are but a few recent examples.

Another, according to Amnesty, is the use of lighter automatic weapons. "Once guns were simply too heavy," says Rachel Brett, a co-author of the report who has worked for the UN and leading human rights groups on the problem, "but these days a child can use

such weapons as effectively as an adult."

For commanders, semi- or untrained children are expendable too - human fodder for clearing minefields, unencumbered by wives, husbands or children of their own. Most chilling of all perhaps, they can be very good at the job. "Once inhibitions are broken, children are less cautious, and become highly effective killers and torturers," says Ms Brett.

The report is being published to coincide with the start of a new bid in Geneva to secure a UN protocol that would ban the use of child soldiers and raise the legal minimum age of recruitment from 15 to 18.

Although the new protocol would be voluntary, it will pose



The hand of a man emerges from the rubble of a six-storey block of flats that collapsed in Cairo yesterday. Rescue workers in the Egyptian capital said five people were killed and at least 15 others were missing. AP

Food crisis in the land of orphans

CARLOS LOST his father and all four uncles to the war. "I don't want to go like them. I told myself I would never die like them, in this stupid war. Never." Carlos, 21, like many young men his age, lives in fear of being rounded up by government police and sent to the front line of Angola's never-ending civil war.

His fears are well founded. Fighting between the Angolan government, led by the former Marxist Popular Movement (MPLA), and the National Union for the Total Independence for Angola (Unita) is getting more widespread. Parliament is debating whether to pass the law banning all boys and men between the age of 18 and 35 from leaving the country.

In addition there are rumours of the rebel group Unita taking boys from families and training them as child-soldiers. Girls as young as 13 have reportedly been kidnapped and abused by the rebels.

Since Angola won independence from Portugal in 1975 the war has claimed hundreds of thousands of civilian lives, displacing many more, and has left a large part of the country's young population orphaned and homeless. Forty-two per cent of Angola's 11 million are now under the age of 15.

Today the cities of Kuito, Huambo and Malanje are under siege. The Humanitarian Assistance Co-ordination Unit (UCAE) estimates the number of displaced people in all three regions has risen from 350,000 in December to 470,000. It was reported that displaced children of Malanje were suffering from

BY ELEANOR CURTIS
in Luanda

serious food shortages and UCAE described the situation as "catastrophic".

According to Gillian Forest of Save the Children Fund (SCF), within the first week of the fighting in December the number of Kuito's orphans in the care of SCF houses more than doubled. The central office in Luanda has collected 250 unaccompanied children from the airport over the last month, mostly from Huambo and Malanje. The last plane to leave Kuito on 15 December reportedly had people hanging on to the wings as it took off.

Aid workers who remain in the combat regions say the situation is dire with high risk of starvation and disease as aid cannot get through. Aid operations remain virtually at a standstill with all flights suspended after two UN aircraft were shot down near Huambo, killing 22 UN personnel.

In this oil-and-diamond-rich country, illiteracy rates are estimated to be as high as 60 per cent and the education system is in tatters, barely reaching beyond primary school level.

The streets of Angola's capital, Luanda, are busy with small children scavenging in the garbage bins for food, sometimes carrying even smaller ones on their backs. They hardly look like warriors in waiting, but without a change of direction in the grotesque modern story of modern Angola, that is precisely what many will become.

Zimbabwe officers 'held in coup plot'

AN NUMBER of senior Zimbabwe army officers have been arrested for allegedly inciting colleagues in the military to join a revolt to overthrow the government, the independent *Sunday Standard* newspaper reported yesterday.

The Harare-based newspaper, quoting what it described as highly-placed military sources, said 23 officers and men were detained at Chikurubi maximum security prison on 17 December.

No comment was available from the government yesterday and calls to officials were not returned. The *Standard* said a colonel was among seven officers arrested for plotting against President Robert Mugabe.

The alleged plotters cited Zimbabwe's involvement in the distant Congo war and Mr Mugabe's mismanagement of the economy as their reasons for wanting to take action against the government, the report

said. The newspaper said thousands of loyal troops were put on alert hours before army intelligence officers "closed the net" on the disaffected soldiers.

Zimbabwe has 8,000 troops backing Congo's embattled president, Laurent Kabila, in the five-month civil war in the former Zaire.

The government has in recent weeks denied reports of a near mutiny by Zimbabwean soldiers serving in the dense jungles of eastern Congo at the height of the tropical rainy season. Zimbabwe says it has lost 26 troops killed in action in Congo since August and 17 captured by rebels fighting to topple President Kabila.

An independent survey last month by the four main human rights groups showed that 70 per cent of Zimbabweans were against military intervention in Congo and most did not believe the government's official casualty figures.

MARY DEJEVSKY

Even the souvenir pens had a misprint: 'the United States Senate'

IN THE MONDAY REVIEW

PAGE 4

WINTER GERMISPARBAG

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Singapore wants to restore link to UK

SINGAPORE IS keen to restore old colonial ties with Britain and yesterday urged the British government to use the island state as an outpost for its east Asian activities.

This surprising call for a turning back of the historical clock came yesterday in a statement on the government-controlled Singapore television by George Yeo, the Information and Arts Minister. Brigadier General Yeo is one of the most influential members of the Singapore government and widely regarded as a possible successor to Goh Chok Tong, the present Prime Minister.

Mr Yeo was speaking after returning from a visit to Hong Kong. He said that now the former British colony had returned to China, the British needed to think about Singapore as a centre for its activities. "Singapore is probably Britain's most important outpost in the region", he said.

Nevertheless Lee Kuan-yew,

the former prime minister of Singapore, who still exercises a considerable degree of influence over the government, made strenuous efforts to pull his tiny nation away from British influence. He greatly diversified its foreign ties and put greater emphasis on an Asian orientation.

Recently, however, Singapore has shown more interest in Britain again. This has been encouraged by the evident enthusiasm of Tony Blair, the Prime Minister, for some of Singapore's social and economic policies. Mr Blair lavished considerable praise on Singapore during a recent visit. Unlike the Americans, the Singapore government has been doing its best to lure Hong Kong's more qualified people to live in the island state. It has also stepped up efforts to persuade multi-national companies to shift their regional headquarters from Hong Kong to Singapore.

vying for a central role as east Asia's financial, trade and tourism centre.

Mr Lee was a vocal critic of Britain's attempts to bring greater democracy to Hong Kong in the last years of British rule. Singapore regularly supported the Chinese government's stand in controversies over the future of Hong Kong and declared itself to be an enthusiastic supporter of the former colony's reintegration into China.

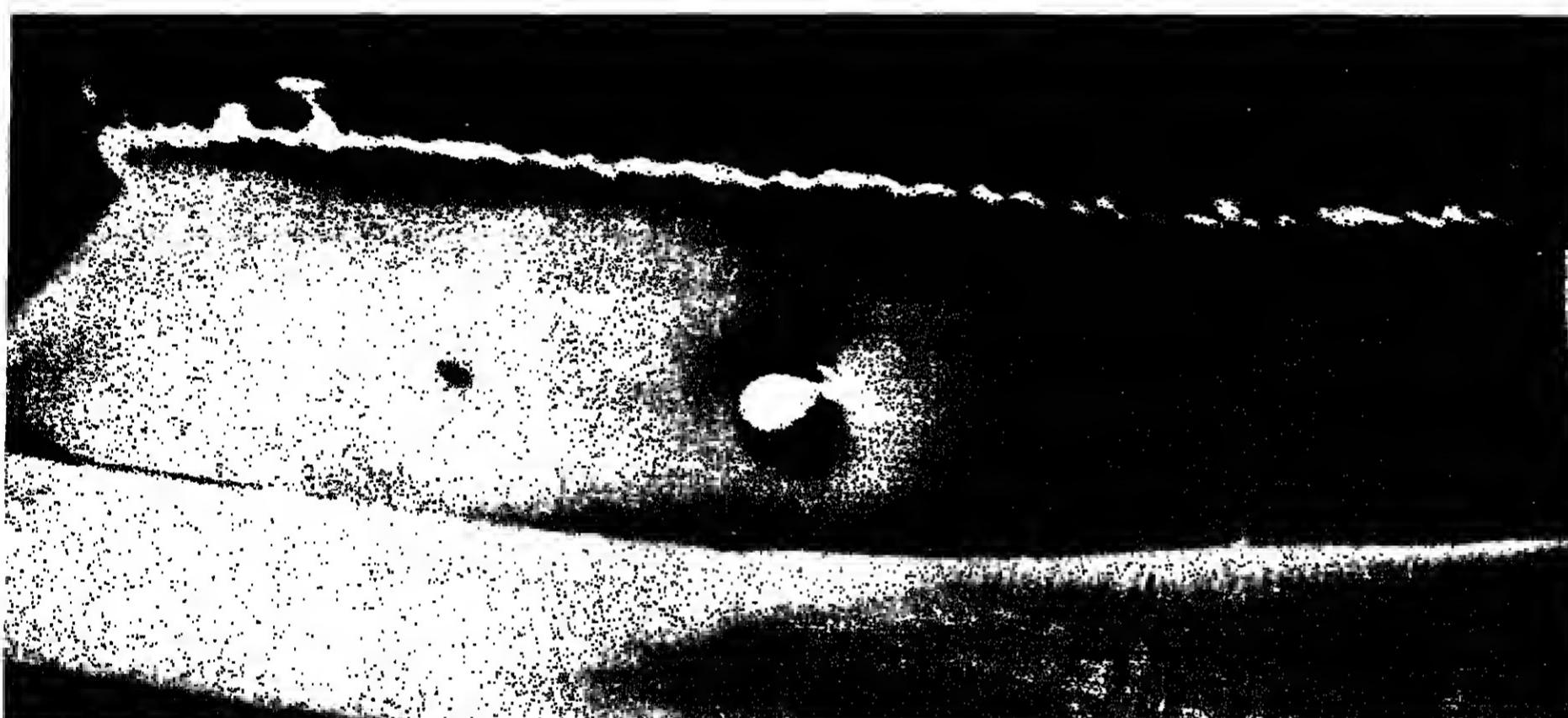
Yesterday, Mr Yeo spoke of how Hong Kong would lose its distinctiveness and become increasingly absorbed into the Chinese mainland. Meanwhile, the Singapore government has been doing its best to lure Hong Kong's more qualified people to live in the island state. It has also stepped up efforts to persuade multi-national companies to shift their regional headquarters from Hong Kong to Singapore.

In part the Singaporeans are motivated by their almost obsessive sense of competition with Hong Kong. Both are



A Shinto priest leading followers to pray at Tokyo's Tepozu-Inari Shrine yesterday. The group is carrying a huge block of ice to chill waters at the shrine for an annual icy-bathing ritual, believed to have health-giving properties. AP

Pearly Queens in London?



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The offer is available until 31st January 1999. Call 0345 186 186 or just visit your local Rover dealer and take a fresh look. www.rover.co.uk



Chinese men face bachelor's life

TWENTY YEARS after China introduced its one child policy - brutally tailored by many people to favour boys - the world's most populous country has become its loneliest. The latest demographic trends show that some 111 million Chinese men will never marry.

A nation where some 5 million women bear the names Lai-di and Zhao-di ("call for a brother" and "bring a brother") there are now 130 potential grooms for every 100 brides-to-be. The trend seems to be worsening. Just four years ago, there were 113.4 men for every 100 women.

The Chinese Academy of Sciences claims a "natural gender ratio" is 106 men for 100 women. But in Western countries there

are consistently more women than men in the population.

Since 1979, when China adopted its one-child policy, the 1.2 billion-strong nation has become awash with gruesome stories of female infanticide and abandonment of baby girls.

Campaigners against the one-child policy estimate that a million girl babies are abandoned every year.

China's growing prosperity and increasing imbalance between men and women has also fuelled the burgeoning sex industry. Denied the chance of a wife or girlfriend, many men turn to commercial sex as the only alternative.

Peking Duck gave birth to a fortune

CITY LIFE

PEKING



THERE WAS a time when it was difficult to find anywhere to dine in Peking. This seems far-fetched now, given that the city has hundreds of restaurants. But all gastronomic revolutions have a beginning, and Peking's epicurean turning point happened down a nondescript alley on 30 September, 1980.

That was when Liu Guixian threw Maoist dogma to the wind and opened the "Happy Guest", the city's first private restaurant since the Communist victory of 1949.

On the first night the Liu family bought four ducks and prepared four simple tables of duck dishes. It was hardly gourmet dining, but it was a sell-out. At that time, it was difficult enough just getting hold of the ingredients, as food staples could only be obtained with ration coupons. A constant worry was also whether this capitalist venture would suddenly find itself out in the political cold. So, with China just celebrating 20 years of economic reform, whatever happened to Ms Liu?

The original "Happy Guest" is alive and thriving. The traditional Peking alley of single-storey, grey-brick buildings has barely changed and outside the restaurant's entrance hang large red, paper decorations. Inside in the one long dining room are 12 square formica tables. Prices are extremely modest by Western standards. The bill for a group of 18 lawyers who recently held their end-of-year lunch at the restaurant was £65, including beer and spirits.

"Though I received little education, I think I am different from other women. If I do something, I try to make it a success," said Ms Liu, now 66.

As a young peasant from nearby Hebei province she came to Peking soon after 1949 and worked as a cook in the homes of officials. In the years before opening her restaurant she cooked for a

party elder. "Don't say who!" she laughed. But the salary was low, and in 1980 she asked to be allowed to resign. "I had five children to support."

Starting a private venture was not easy. "At the beginning, I went to the district government commercial bureau and asked if I could open my restaurant. They didn't have the documents, so I went to the government and sat in another office all day," she said. Then she seemed to get the go-ahead.

"It was dangerous at first but once it was open, the government showed some support. Her restaurant did well, and eight years ago she opened a bigger one nearby and now employs over 20 staff. It is perhaps only in a society that has changed as much as China in 20 years that an illiterate peasant woman, with less than three years schooling, can have achieved so much. When I give a speech, I have a good memory. I'm nicknamed the tape-recorder," she said.

But it is also astonishing that a couple of very basic food joints can have generated so much money.

"Every month I give my children's families over 1,000 yuan (£74). Every year I divide the profit among them. It's not equal, but they don't ask each other how much they got. I tell each one, you have got the most, do not tell the others."

TERESA POOLE

Take a fresh look.

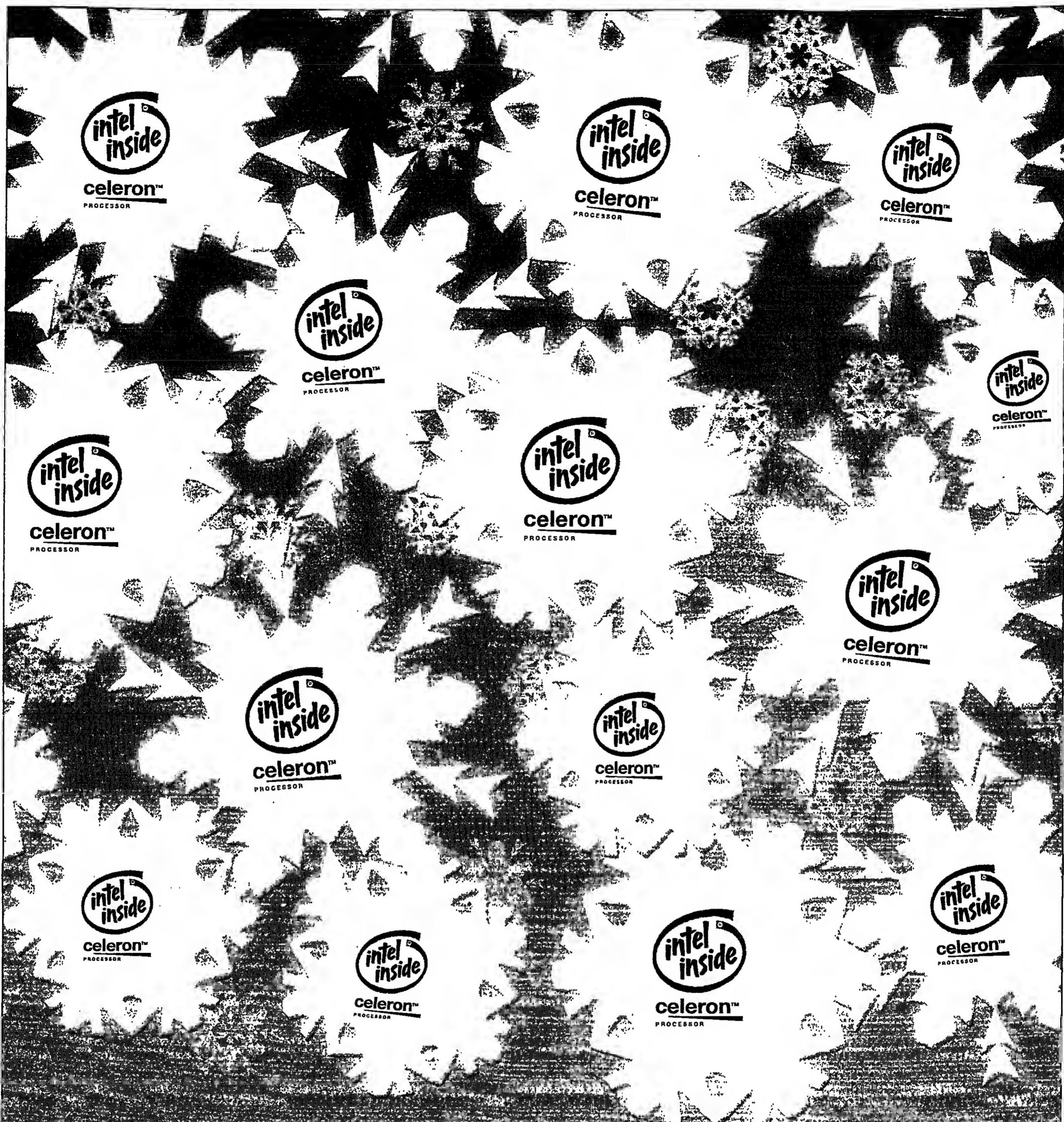
It's no wonder Londoners like a sing-song. With 2 years' interest free finance 0% APR* (with a minimum deposit of 50%) and 1 year's free insurance the Rover 200 is just the excuse they need for a good old knees up. If that hasn't got Mother Brown quaking in her boots, then perhaps the Rover 214i SE with power assisted steering, remote central door locking and air-conditioning will.

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INDEPENDENT
11 January 1999



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BUSINESS

BRIEFING

Alistom wins £500m Taiwan work

ALSTOM, the Anglo-French engineering giant, has won a contract worth 650m euros (£500m) to build a coal-fired power plant in Taiwan. The contract, due to be signed with the independent Taiwanese power producer Ho-Ping Power today, is one of the first private power production projects in Taiwan. Construction work will begin this month and it is expected to be ready for commercial operation by 2002. The project is similar to another plant built by Alstom in the Philippines, now nearing completion.

Discount retailer beats gloom

TJ HUGHES, the discount department store group, has bucked the gloom on the high street with a buoyant Christmas trading performance. In the five weeks to 2 January, like-for-like sales increased by 11.8 per cent while overall sales were up 13.8 per cent. In the past 22 weeks, sales have increased 13.9 per cent on a like-for-like basis. George Foster (pictured) has been appointed chief executive, said TJ Hughes had succeeded by concentrating on the basics of discount retailing and providing quality merchandise at value for money prices. The group has secured three new stores as part of its 1999 expansion plans.

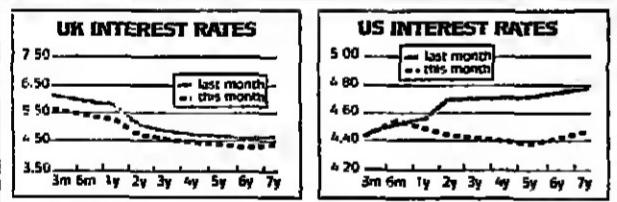
Going it alone 'will cost City jobs'

THE CITY will lose jobs as a result of the Britain's decision not to join the European single currency in the first wave, firms in London's Square Mile believe. The survey, carried out by the accountants KPMG, has found that 40 per cent of City firms believe the financial centre will lose jobs because it is not in the euro-zone. Almost 50 per cent of companies believe London is now less attractive to overseas investors.

STOCK MARKETS

FTSE 100									
Index	Close	Wk's ch	Wk's ch (%)	52 wks high	52 wks low	Yield (%)	Div	EPS	P/E
FTSE 100	6147.20	264.60	4.50	6183.7	4599.2	2.625			
FTSE 250	4976.40	121.70	2.51	5970.9	4247.8	3.334			
FTSE 350	2898.70	116.30	4.20	2969.1	2310.4	2.73			
FTSE All Share	2784.63	110.76	4.14	2886.52	2143.53	2.778			
FTSE SmallCaps	2133.80	62.90	3.04	2793.8	1834.4	3.773			
FTSE Fledgling	1177.81	31.40	2.74	1517.1	1046.2	4.25			
FTSE ARA	805.60	5.30	0.66	1146.9	761.3	1.247			
FTSE Eurotop 100	2909.02	185.15	6.80	3079.27	2018.1587.889				
FTSE Eurotop 300	1253.32	70.58	5.97	1332.07	880.63	0.991			
Dow Jones	9643.32	451.89	5.03	9562.22	7400.3	1.584			
Nikkei	13391.81	-450.36	-3.7%	17152.93	12787.9	1.084			
Hang Seng	10722.76	674.12	6.71	11926.16	6545.79	3.279			
Dax	5392.84	390.65	7.81	6212.83	3833.71	1.592			
S&P 500	1275.16	45.92	3.74	1272.5	912.83	1.386			
Nasdaq	2744.89	152.34	5.95	2333.7	1357.05	0.297			
Toronto 300	6668.20	362.86	5.99	7372.7	5209.9	1.581			
Barcl. Bowers	6781.41	-2.92	-0.04	12339.14	4575.69	8.759			
Belgium Bel20	3573.93	55.95	1.65	3713.21	2557.78	1.62			
Amsterdam Exch	559.27	20.81	3.89	600.65	365.58	1.725			
France CAC 40	4245.42	302.76	7.63	4604.94	2809.73	1.902			
Milan MIB30	37670.00	2518.00	7.16	36170.0	24175	1.075			
Austria Ibov 35	10412.30	575.70	5.85	10589.8	6869.9	1.769			
Irish Overall	5285.88	282.04	5.65	5581.7	3732.57	1.367			
S. Korea Comp	626.83	63.87	11.36	638.41	277.37	0.57			
Australia ASX	2856.30	62.90	1.53	2902.9	2386.7	3.116			

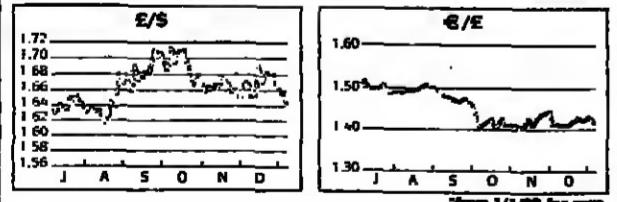
INTEREST RATES



MONEY MARKET RATES

Index	3 month	Yr chg	1 year	Yr chg	10 year	Yr chg	Long bond	Yr chg
UK	5.95	-1.61	5.46	-2.12	4.26	-1.78	4.28	-1.71
US	5.04	-0.65	5.09	-0.66	4.87	...	5.27	...
Japan	0.54	-0.23	0.56	-0.18	2.00	0.12	2.74	0.24
Germany	3.20	-0.41	3.14	-0.79	3.73	-1.40	4.66	-1.03

CURRENCIES



OTHER INDICATORS

Commodity	Close	Wk's ch	Yr ago	Index	Chg	Yr ago	Next Rpt
Brent Oil (S)	11.51	0.94	15.07	Dollar	1.6432	-1.72	1.6129
Gold (S)	291.35	3.10	281.05	Sterling	0.6086	-0.63	0.6200
Silver (S)	5.21	0.20	6.06	Euro	1.1918	-1.19	1.4079
Crude Oil (Bbl)	30.50	0.50	30.00	Yen	111.12	-1.49	124.05
Gold (Oz)	99.20	-0.50	103.60	5 Index	103.70	-0.20	110.40

TOURIST RATES



SOURCE: BLOOMBERG

Australian (\$)			Mexican (nuevo peso)			Netherlands (guilder)		
1.72	1.70	1.68	1.60	1.58	1.56	3.0428	3.0271	3.0271
1.70	1.68	1.66	1.58	1.56	1.54	2.9371	2.9213	2.9213
1.68	1.66	1.64	1.56	1.54	1.52	2.9213	2.9055	2.9055
1.66	1.64	1.62	1.54	1.52	1.50	2.9055	2.8897	2.8897
1.64	1.62	1.60	1.52	1.50	1.48	2.8897	2.8739	2.8739
1.62	1.60	1.58	1.50	1.48	1.46	2.8739	2.8581	2.8581
1.60	1.58	1.56	1.48	1.46	1.44	2.8581	2.8423	2.8423
1.58	1.56	1.54	1.46	1.44	1.42	2.8423	2.8265	2.8265
1.56	1.54	1.52	1.44	1.42	1.40	2.8265	2.8107	2.8107

Rates for indication purposes only

Source: Thomas Cook

Predators circle over Equitable Life

BY ANDREW GARFIELD
Financial Editor

IT IS widely regarded as having the most efficient and productive workforce and the lowest cost-base in the business.

Potential bidders range from clearing banks such as National Westminster, to general insurers like CGU which want to expand their life business, as well as foreign players like Swiss Life which recently lost out to AMP in the bidding for NPL.

Investment bankers, who

have been playing up fears about Equitable's financial situation in the hope of putting it into play.

One City source said that Equitable has had to get a waiver from the Treasury to continue writing new business after being technically in breach of a number of solvency ratios, a claim that has been dismissed by Equitable as "absolute nonsense".

Nigel Webb, Equitable's spokesman, said: "We are absolutely committed to the benefits of mutualism."

The firm is also facing a fur-

ther threat from so-called guaranteed annuity issues. This is an industry-wide problem which arises from promises made about payouts to pensioners at a time when long-term interest rates were much higher than they are now.

However, a report by American credit rating agency Standard & Poor's, which was published last month, warns that while the firm's capitalisation is "adequate," it is below the level expected for an AA-rated institution and below the level of its peers.

S&P also points out that the firm's ability to grow is restricted by its commitment to remaining mutual.

"Financial flexibility is relatively limited owing to Equitable's strict adherence to mutual principles," the report says.

Ned Cazalet, head of Cazalet Financial Consulting, the life insurance consultancy, said Equitable had been a favourite target for potential bidders for years.

Deficits spell trouble for the world

AS WE ENTER 1999, many economic commentators have argued that the global economy – and more particularly the UK – will be “lucky” to avoid a fatal accident this year.

Even so, most of the mainstream forecasting groups, such as the International Monetary Fund and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, assume in their central projections that the world will stay lucky.

At Goldman Sachs, we expect the world as a whole (including emerging economies) to grow by 2 per cent – roughly the same as last year, with the UK growing by 0.5 per cent.

In one sense, though, the pessimists are undoubtedly right. Although economists always seem to argue that times are “particularly uncertain”, there is clearly a greater number of identifiable downside risks to the global outlook than normal this year – notably, the Brazil debacle, the so-called “death spiral” into deflation in Japan, and a spontaneous decline in equity markets.

Any of these events could occur without much warning, tipping the world from benign low inflation into malign outright deflation. Although analysts at Goldman Sachs are often depicted as crazily optimistic on financial markets, we certainly recognise that these are threats which no-one should dismiss lightly.

There are obvious symptoms of extreme froth in share prices, and the rapid growth in the global money supply indicates that there might be much more “leverage” supporting equities than is commonly assumed.



GAVYN DAVIES

The most troubling imbalance in the world today is the private sector financial deficit in the US

sector financial deficit in the United States. The private sector in this regard is defined to include both corporations and households, and its financial deficit is the difference between income and expenditure – ie free cash flow. By definition, the sum total of the financial deficit of the private sector and the government taken together is equal to the balance of payments deficit.

In most economies in the post-war era, the private sector has typically run a financial surplus in order to build up its stock of assets. Usually, these private sector surpluses have been matched by similar sized government deficits, and balance of payments positions have therefore been roughly in equilibrium.

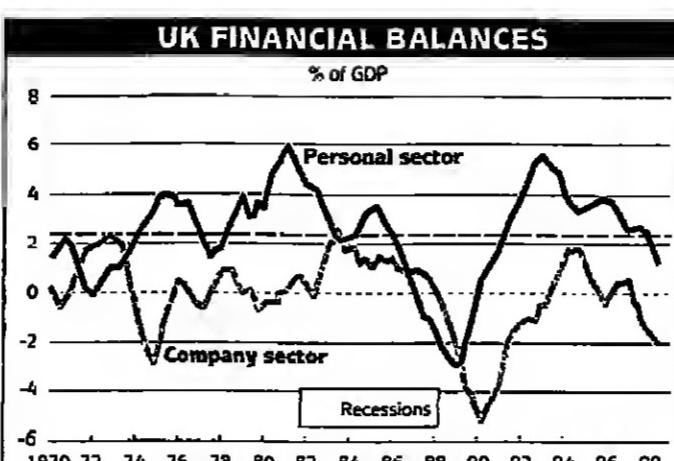
The present situation in the US is, however, very different. Over the past few years, private expenditure has risen much more rapidly than private income, so the financial deficit of the private sector has risen to all-time record levels.

With the government having eliminated its own budget deficit, the private deficit has, of course, triggered an equally large amount of red ink in the balance of payments statistics.

Put simply, Americans have been spending more than they earn, driving the trade figures into deficit. This imbalance has in turn been financed by foreigners acquiring a mountain of American assets.

As usual, the real problem in assessing the outlook for 1999 is to judge whether this will prove to be the year when these imbalances will finally need to be corrected.

The most extreme, and most troubling, imbalance in the world system today concerns the private



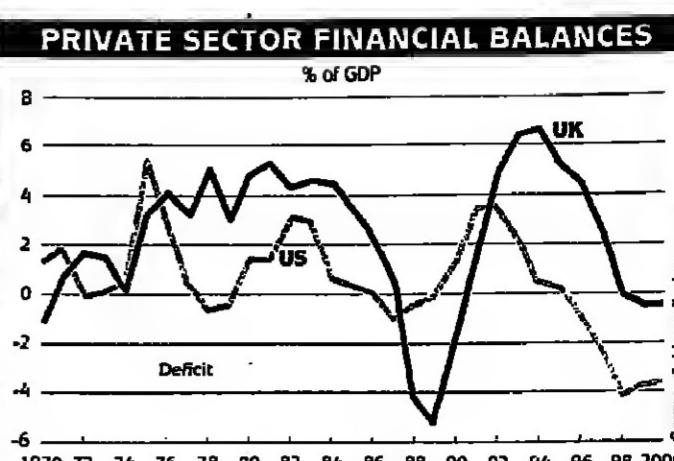
sector moving into surplus, since the elimination of the budget deficit will reduce the expected level of taxation.

If this argument is valid, it implies that a private sector financial deficit might prove to be a permanent feature of the American landscape.

But this will surely prove over optimistic. Not only will the budget surplus itself probably prove a temporary product of the economic boom, but there are elements of unsustainability in the private sector's behaviour.

Excessive private spending has no doubt been connected to the remarkable surge in share prices, which may or may not prove sustainable. Furthermore, it is not clear that foreigners will remain willing to lend money to the US on the scale required to perpetuate these imbalances.

The betting must therefore be that, one day, this episode will end



in a crisis, just as it did in the case of the UK in the late 1980s. But what will be the trigger for such a crisis? There are three possibilities.

First, the dollar might decline precipitously in a familiar old-fashioned balance of payments crisis. But it seems doubtful whether this will happen in the immediate future, since there are excess savings in the world system, and few attractive investment opportunities outside the US.

Second, inflation in the US might start to rise, forcing the Federal Reserve to increase interest rates, thus killing the boom in American asset prices. But a rise in US inflation seems most improbable this year given the strong deflationary forces emanating from overseas.

Third, some foreign shock – most likely emanating from Brazil or Japan – might puncture confidence in the growth of the US economy, and remove some of the froth from equity markets.

Although this is the most likely crisis to happen this year, it can probably be addressed by further monetary easing by the central banks, as in the aftermath of the Asian and Russian crises. Thus, while it may be the most likely to happen, it may not be powerful enough to prove fatal. That is why central economic forecasts assume – albeit nervously – that a crisis correction upon the world this year.

The UK may not prove quite so fortunate. Although the deterioration in household and corporate finances in this country has not touched the ludicrous extremes seen in the late 1980s, or indeed those seen in the US today the private sector will need to cut its spending sharply this year in order to return its financial position to normal. This threat may be smaller than in the past, but it still spells trouble for the British economy in 1999.

Pay pressures start to recede

PAY PRESSURES are receding as fears of recession grow, according to new figures on pay settlements out today. Most deals lie in the range of 3.5 to 4.5 per cent, according to researchers at Incomes Data Services (IDS).

The latest evidence that the upward momentum in pay growth is easing follows last week's decision to cut interest rates by a quarter point by the Bank of England's monetary policy committee.

The Bank's statement re-

ferred to signs that the jobs market had stopped getting tighter.

A separate survey from research group NTC at the end of last week found a marked slowdown in pay growth in December.

NTC said its findings had been sent to the Bank of England ahead of the monetary policy committee meeting last week.

The report notes that settlements have remained broad-

ly stable for the past 12 months, even though headline inflation drifted down from a peak of 4.2 per cent in May to 3 per cent in November. Most settlements during 1998 therefore ran well ahead of inflation.

However, the turnaround in optimism about the economy is starting to have an impact on pay negotiations.

For example, according to the Engineering Employers' Federation, the average level of settlements dropped to 2.7 per cent in the three months to No-

vember from 3.2 per cent in the previous three month period.

Official figures for unemployment due on Wednesday are expected to show a rise of 10,000-20,000 in the number of benefit claimants last month. This would follow a small increase of 5,900 in November.

The official figures on average earnings are currently suspended subject to an independent review following starting revisions. They are not expected to ready in time for this week's jobs market data.

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on PETER THAL LARSEN

he met senior AirTouch executives to discuss the offer.

AirTouch is expected to respond to the proposed merger within the next two weeks. However Morgan Stanley Dean Witter, the investment bank advising AirTouch, is still trying to solicit higher bids.

Bell Atlantic is considering whether to raise its original \$43bn offer, but it is unclear whether the former Baby Bell

could justify matching Vodafone's offer. MCI WorldCom has ruled itself out of the running.

City sources were yesterday playing down reports that British Telecom might enter the fray. BT – which will probably be overtaken by Vodafone in terms of market capitalisation if the merger goes ahead – has agreed not to compete with AT&T, its international partner, in its home market. AT&T currently operates the only national mobile phone network in the US.

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14/SHARES

Story battle

Stormy weather batters insurers

FOR THE second year in a row the insurance industry has been battered by severe weather which could lead to an equally stormy outlook for the sector's performance on the stock market.

In the early months of 1998 storms in the UK hit profits and a particularly nasty ice storm in Canada put dark clouds on the horizon for insurers with big exposure there, notably General Accident and, to a lesser extent, Commercial Union.

The subsequent merger of the two insurers was spectacularly well-received. But the underwriting woes of the sector persisted. Bush fires in Australia, hurricanes in Florida - the list was relentless.

This year the same weather nightmare is already recurring. At the end of last week Warburg Dillon Read slashed its full-year earnings estimates for CGU by more than 10 per cent, from £560m to £500m, in the light of high winds in northern Ireland and flooding in Scotland since its last forecast. It also downgraded its 1998 profit forecast for Royal & SunAlliance, from £600m to £575m.

Shareholders might think the international nature of the businesses would offset the impact of bad weather at home. But it seems the weather, too, has gone global. Large parts of North America are in the grip of one of the coldest winter freezes in years, sharply increasing the projected cost of cold weather claims. Forecasts for CGU in 1999 have dropped from £675m to £650m.

The market could shrug this off if it was clear that profit margins would recover in core insurance lines such as household and motor. The big insurers are still making strenuous efforts to raise premiums and have had some success in motor insurance.

But counting on an upturn amounts to wishful thinking. Salomon Smith Barney points out there is still huge overcapacity in the market - too much capital and not enough custom.

Weak economic growth and lower interest rates will continue putting downward pressure on premiums, and therefore margins.

Those insurers who rely more on life insurance and long-term business are not necessarily safer. A financial storm, in the shape of lower interest rates, threatens to

STOCK MARKET WEEK



ANDREW VERITY

rain all over their balance sheets.

But rivals selling luxuries may find themselves wondering what happened to Christmas. The monthly sales monitor for November showed sales down 0.4 per cent year on year and recorded its worst three-month sales trend since it began its existence in January 1994. The sales monitor for December, normally the golden month for retailers, could prove a big disappointment when it is published on Tuesday.

Dixons, the electrical goods retailer, is likely to show some of the scars when it reports on Wednesday. Boots, normally a solid trader through Christmas, should suffer much less when it reports on Thursday. Further statements are due from Great Universal Stores (Thursday) and Laura Ashley Holdings (Friday).

Tomkins, the "buns to guns" conglomerate known to its own management as an engineer, is expected to report profits narrowly up in the six months to October last year. The consensus is for a boost of profits from £214.9m to a figure between £225m and £235m.

The group said in November that its trading in 1998/99 had been in line with expectations. But analysts have begun to scale back their forecasts. The consensus for the full year is flat profits of just £225m.

Tomkins has maintained it

wants to boost growth both organically and by acquisition. The organic side, though, may have been hit by the strike at General Motors last year. General Motors is a big customer for windscreen wipers and engine timing belts made by Gates and Stant, a Tomkins subsidiary.

RHM baking and milling may also have been hit by a softening in commodity prices and reduced demand. Analysts are wondering about whether the division should be sold.

Selling RHM and buying an automotive maker would give Tomkins the sort of focus the City has crying out for. The conglomerate has £500m to £700m to spend on acquisitions. BTR's merger with Siebe may well see BTR, that other former conglomerate, sell its automotive division. That could present opportunities.

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Low interest rates also tend to mean slower asset growth and narrower margins. Add to that the impact of the £100m mis-selling review and the storm becomes a hurricane.

The renewed bull-run means life insurers have made up much of the ground they lost in the market crises of last year. But Standard & Poor's warns they are still vulnerable, and says many will experience big falls in solvency this year - a big factor in acquiring new business.

If insurers think the year looks gloomy, they might draw some comfort if they look at their fortunes relative to the retail sector. Next week sees a raft of retail trading statements, starting with Kingfisher.

These will be accompanied

by the British Retail Consortium's monthly sales monitor for the crucial month of December. DIY shops and garden centres are thought to have performed reasonably well, so Kingfisher may get off lightly.

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These will be accompanied

by the British Retail Consortium's monthly sales monitor for the crucial month of December. DIY shops

SPORT

New faces for 1999: Britain's 'next boxing superstar' has already attracted comparison with one of the all-time greats

Hatton the natural phenomenon

BY Glyn LEACH

SPORTING SUCCESS and the sky blue sector of Manchester have hardly been joined at the hip in recent years. But the decade could yet end on a happy note for the long-suffering side of town thanks to the former Manchester City apprentice, Ricky Hatton. It seems cruelly unnecessary, however, to point out that the Stockport-born 20-year-old called time on his football career some years ago.

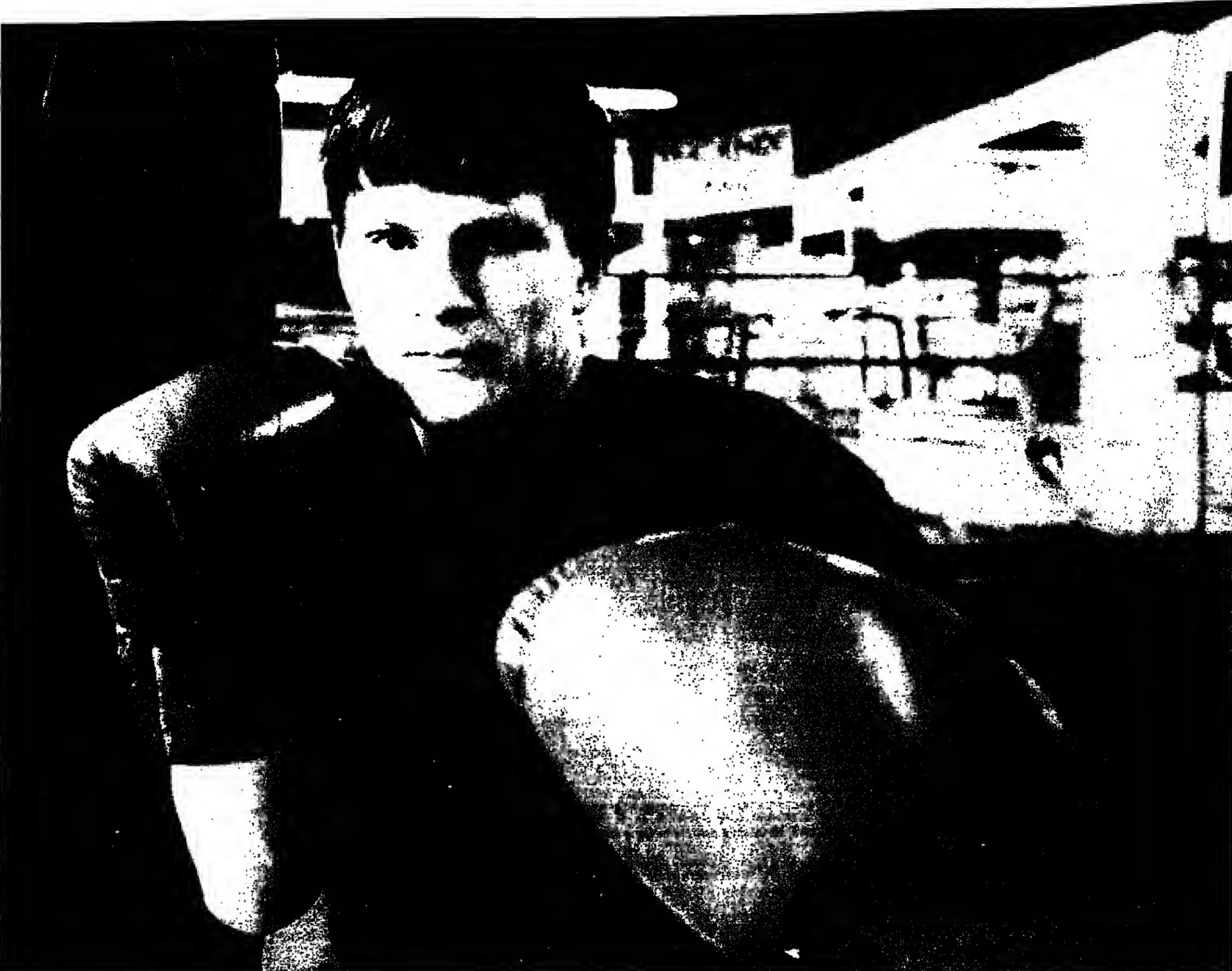
Soccer's possible loss is boxing's considerable gain - there is no hotter prospect than the unbeaten light-welterweight in British boxing today. Hatton's promoter, Frank Warren, has described the fit 7ft pressure fighter as "the nearest thing I've ever seen to a certainty". And few who have seen the exciting body-puncher go to work would argue. "His potential is unlimited," said Billy Graham, the Manchester manager-trainer who became the boxing equivalent of a lottery winner by securing Hatton's services when he turned professional two years ago.

'I just wish I had two of him. Some of the things he does in the gym makes my hair stand on end'

A truly outstanding amateur career had made Hatton's head the most hunted of any British amateur in recent years. On the home front, Hatton won an impressive seven junior national titles and an Amateur Boxing Association championship, the highest honour available in domestic amateur boxing.

But it was Hatton's achievements on the international scene that left professional managers salivating over his signature. The youngster had proved himself to be as rare as a City success - a British fighter capable of taking on and actually beating crack opposition from the amateur boxing world's superpowers. Twice he defeated Russians on their home ground, while at the World Junior Championships staged at Havana in November 1996 Hatton not only beat but stopped his Cuban and American opponents - absolutely unheard of for a British amateur. The stage was set.

Hatton was 17 when he first entered Graham's gym in Manchester's Moss Side district, the blue-collar powerhouse of the successful Phoenix Camp stable that has produced fighters of the calibre of Carl Thompson, the World Boxing Organisation cruiserweight champion. "He was sold to me



Light-welterweight Ricky Hatton, a former apprentice at Manchester City, had an extraordinary amateur boxing career and as a professional is aiming higher than just a British title *Peter Jay*

as just a strong kid who had knocked everyone out as a junior amateur," said Graham, a former pro himself. "But from his first day of sparring I could see there was so much more to Ricky than big punch. Even at that stage he had exceptional balance, skills and strength - he's a natural. Everything I try to teach him, he picks up straight away."

"He can do anything. He reminds me of Julio Cesar Chavez in some ways; Ricky

can pile on the pressure all night long, but he's just as comfortable as a counter-puncher. And like Chavez, his left hook to the body is excellent."

Comparison with Chavez, the magnificent Mexican whose mastery of the pressure-fighting style brought world titles in four weight divisions, is flattery of the highest order for a youngster such as Hatton.

And trainer Graham, known as "The Preacher", is aware of the

pitfalls inherent in heaping on the hyperbole at such an early stage. But where Hatton is concerned, Graham cannot stop himself from spreading the word. "I just wish I had two of him," said the trainer. "Some of the things he does in the gym make my hair stand on end."

However, it is in the competitive ring that fighters are judged and Graham, while fully confident in Hatton's ability, is determined that his

prospect's career will be advanced at a sensible rate. Graham preaches caution. "It's a really exciting time for us, but things can happen too quickly - and I ain't gonna mess this chance up, believe me," he said.

"Ricky could win one of those Intercontinental titles right now, and he could beat the British champion, Jasoo Rowland, too. But we don't want the British title yet; once Ricky wins it, he's on another, higher level. Ricky has enormous potential, but the kid's only

just 20 and he's still learning his trade."

However, Graham recognises that if Hatton continues at his current rate of development it will be damaging, if not impossible, to hold him back. He conceded: "If he's ready young, he's ready young. And to be honest, I believe Ricky will get there early. He'll be this country's next boxing superstar."

And he is being groomed as such. Already Hatton has received American exposure, having featured on the undercards of the featherweight champion Naseem Hamed's two title defences across the Atlantic. But while Hatton has been placed on the fast track, his trainer insists that the fighter's feet will remain firmly on the ground.

"He just seems to take everything in his stride," said Graham. "He's tough mentally now, but when he becomes a man..."

Hatton still holds a Maine

Road season ticket, perhaps due more to a sense of professionalism than previous ties with the club for which his father and grandfather both played. After all, he must learn to soak up punishment somewhere and, after nine fights, there has been no sign of this happening in the boxing ring. That will not always be the case, but the early signs suggest that when the day comes, Hatton is one blue nose who will not catch a cold.

TOMORROW
FAIR OR FOUL?
THE COURT CASE THAT COULD CHANGE THE FACE OF FOOTBALL

Compilation top scores for originality

BOOK OF THE WEEK

The New Ball, Volume One: England v Australia
Edited by Rob Steen
Two Heads, £8.99

JUST OCCASIONALLY something bounces in from the left field and hits the spot. And that is certainly the case with this original compilation of cricket writing.

It is not just that this book contains work by the *Independent* on Sunday's correspondent Stephen Brenkley (a fascinating piece on Frank Tyson, former *Independent* cricket writer Martin Johnson (just downright amusing).

Matthew Engel (editor of *Wisden Cricketers' Almanack*) on his pioneering tour Down Under; Scyld Berry (*Sunday Telegraph*, correspondent) looking back at the first five-Test Ashes series - apposite given that New Zealand would like to see an end to them - and author Rob Steen (editor of this publication). It is also the fact that the writing is original to the book.

So, instead of having a mere 1,000 to 2,500 words of a re-hashed feature or comment piece, fans of the various writers can get their teeth into a 5,000-word chunk of their favourite cricket writers.

THIS WEEK'S TOP TEN SPORTS BOOKS

- 1 Angry White Pyjamas, Robert Twigger (Indigo, paperback, £5.99)
 - 2 Addicted, Tony Adams with Ian Ridley (Collins Willow, hardback, £16.99)
 - 3 Winter Colours - Changing Seasons in World Rugby, Donald McRae (Mainstream, hardback, £16.99)
 - 4 Turning Point, Sean Fitzpatrick and Duncan Johnstone (Penguin, hardback, £16.99)
 - 5 Cups for Cock-Ups - The Extraordinary Story of Manchester City FC, Ashley Shaw (Empire, paperback, £8.99)
 - 6 The New Ball - The Best New Cricket Writing Vol 1, edited by Rob Steen (Two Heads, paperback, £8.99)
 - 7 Annuario del Calcio Mondiale 98-99, Salvatore Lo Presti (SET, hardback, £19.95)
 - 8 Against The Odds, Larry Holmes with Phil Berger (St Martins Press, hardback, £21.50)
 - 9 European Football Yearbook 1998-99, edited by Mike Hammond (Sports Projects, paperback, £23.95)
 - 10 Elliott's Golf Form 1999, Keith Elliott (Portway Press, paperback, £20.00)
- List compiled by Sportspages, 94-96 Charing Cross Road, London (0171 240 9604) and St Ann's Square, Manchester (0161 832 8530), and www.sportspages.co.uk

Draws best option in FA Cup replays

SPORTS BETTING

BY IAN DAVIES

THERE ARE six FA Cup third round replays this week, many of which are bound to be tense affairs. And, while some are infinitely more likely to end in draws after 90 minutes than others, all six could go into extra time.

Barnsley ought to hold

First Division rivals Swindon

at Oakwell tomorrow. How-

ever, after losing 2-0 at West

Brom on Saturday, the Tykes

make no appeal at odds-on

and Swindon, held 2-2 by

Sheffield United at home,

might force a draw and take

the game to extra time.

Second Division Notts

County, despite being beaten

1-0 at home by Oldham, might

also force a draw to take First

Division Sheffield United into

the extra period. And non-

League Yeovil, who won 3-2 at

Southport on Saturday, could

easily force a draw with Third

Division Cardiff, 4-1 winners at

home to Hartlepool.

On Wednesday, Second

Division Fulham, who beat

Macclesfield 1-0 on Saturday,

could force Premiership

strugglers Southampton, de-

spite their 3-1 win over Charl-

ton at The Dell, into extra time

with a draw at Craven Cot-

tegde. And Third Division

C	H	L	S	T
8-11	4-5	4-6	6-8	4-6
9-11	9-4	12-6	11-5	2-1
10-3	3-1	7-2	10-2	2-2
9-5	15-8	15-8	9-1	18-5
11-5	9-4	12-6	11-5	
6-4	6-5	6-5	11-10	6-5
5-6	15-8	7-4	7-4	9-8
11-5	9-4	9-4	9-4	11-5
5-4	6-5	5-4	5-4	5-4
8-6	6-4	1-0	11-8	6-4
2-1	11-5	1-5	8-4	11-5
6-4	6-4	1-8	8-5	6-4
1-8	1-7	1-7	1-8	1-8
Draws	5-1	9-2	5-1	11-2
Rebounds & D.	16-1	16-1	16-1	16-1
Rebounds	7-2	9-2	11-2	9-2
Draws	12-5	11-5	12-5	9-4
West Ham	6-6	8-13	1-2	8-13
C Cont. W/Hamlin Rd, L/Lockhart, S/Sawley T/R				

David Llewellyn

Ulster revel in magic of Europe



CHRIS HEWETT

Ulster 33
Stade Français 27

suredly, it had. But only once and a long time ago. In 1948, to be exact, when Ireland beat Wales 6-3 to win their first and only Five Nations Grand Slam.

"Jesus, I was nervous," admitted Simon Mason, whose 18 points, generally kicked at the most acute psychological moments, heralded the high-speed French locomotive known as Stade Français and left their assumption of European pre-eminence stranded in the sidings. "We all read the papers during the week and there was so much about Stade Français, about how unbelievably strong they were, that I was left thinking: 'What if we're hopeless? What if we capitulate in front of 20,000 people?' But when we walked out of the dressing-room and into all that noise, I knew there would be no capitulation. Yes, they were very, very strong. But the try just after half-time swung it our way."

Ah yes, the try. Or that try, as it has already been christened. In 10 sweet seconds of luminous, inspirational rugby, David Humphreys, the Ulster captain, shook the French champions to the tips of their expensively



Ulster's inspirational captain, David Humphreys, crosses the line at the conclusion of that try against Stade Français. **Photopress**

manicured toenails and, perhaps, breathed new life into his own international career. Lumbered with a fairly useless piece of scrummage possession inside his own 22 - for all their bravery, the home front row were decimated at the set-piece - the clever little outside-half-chipped Thomas Lombard so accurately that his own blind-side wing, Sheldon Coulter, was able to field the ball on the full, draw Sébastien Viars into the tackle and return the ball to his looping colleague, who pinned back his ears and ran fully 65 metres to the right corner.

Coming as it did within three minutes of the restart, explained Humphreys, "it said to Stade Français: 'You may think you've got this one in the bag, but we can play some rugby too, you know.' I'll never forget the

noise from the crowd, which was phenomenal. From there on in, I was able to say to the team: 'Just imagine how it will be if we win. It's got to be worth fighting for'. And we fought, every inch of the way. I'm really very proud, not least because we won the game by playing more rugby than the opposition. Sure, I stuck the ball in the air on occasions, but that was just to get the crowd going. If you look at the match dispassionately, we played some very imaginative stuff out there."

More imaginative than their opponents, certainly. Stade Français made such a virtue of maintaining their fragile discipline in bearpit surroundings that the effort appeared to neutralise every other aspect of their game.

Overwhelmingly powerful at

scrum and maul, where Sylvain Marconet underlined his status as the outstanding front-row prospect in world rugby before falling victim to one of the more bizarre substitution decisions of the season, they manufactured two close-range tries for Christophe Juillet and another for Marc Lievremont.

Yet there was no width, and even less wit, to the French three-quarter play, largely because Christophe Lassucq and Diego Dominguez succeeded in confusing themselves rather than the opposition. Viars, an international of considerable experience, defended like a novice, while Lombard, the tournament's leading try-scorer, looked woefully short of ideas. Although their fight forwards brought them back to within four points on the hour

and within three with 12 minutes left on the clock, Mason finally kicked the life out of them with a penalty from the best part of 50 metres.

"We spent two whole weeks preparing for rain, wind, mud, slime and filth," groaned Richard Pool-Jones, the energetic Englishman who inhabits the Stade Français open-side flank. "What did we find in Belfast? Sunshine, a gentle breeze and a nice wide pitch. Perfect rugby conditions, really.

The really depressing thing is that we didn't have the nous, the basic common sense, to throw all the wet-weather preparations out of the window and play our natural game. It's a bad day for us, that's for sure, but how can you complain when the better side wins? They played more rugby than us. End of story."

Young Falcons grow up quickly

BY PAUL STEPHENS

Newcastle 25
Bath 22

MATURITY USED to be Bath's stock-in-trade. They possessed an abundance of the stuff. Until comparatively recently, a youngster graduating to the Bath team had to be grown up before he was fully grown. It provided Bath with a considerable advantage when Jeremy Guscott and Mike Catt were able to shed their rugby adolescence so early in their careers. But those days, like Bath's killer instinct in their unwavering resolution to seize the biggest prizes, have long gone.

In a thrilling, if technically unsatisfying, Tetley's Bitter Cup fourth-round tie at Kingston Park, Bath put on another display of catch-up rugby, just as they did in the Premiership at Sale in mid-week. Then they allowed the Manchester side to pull up from 14-3, to overhaul them and be ahead at 18-17 before the break. In the second half, Bath were 32-18 in front, only to stand idly by while Sale reduced the deficit to 32-30. But at least Bath won, to end a run of six successive league defeats.

For 40 minutes on Saturday,

the 10-times cup winners looked as if their self-confidence had come flooding back. Not a bit of it. They had turned round 22-6 in front, thanks to tries by Richard Webster, Catt and Russell Earnshaw. Catt converted twice and kicked a penalty, before it all started to go horribly wrong. It was catch up time again; only on this occasion there was to be no reprieve. Jonny Wilkinson and Ross Beattie saw to that.

Wilkinson has been fast-tracked to maturity by Newcastle, with results that would impress the longest-serving Bath watcher. Still only 19, Wilkinson kicked two late penalties to consign Bath to defeat 19-17, when they met in the league at Gateshead in September. If Bath have not forgotten that loss, they will never forgive Wilkinson for ending their interest in the cup.

The Falcons' only first-half scores were two penalties from Wilkinson. In a 10-minute spell, he kept them in it with three more penalties, as Bath failed to capitalise on the outstanding work of their pack in which Martin Haag, Dan Lyle, Webster and Dave Hilton were outstanding. Had Ieuan Evans taken a try-scoring opportunity with his usual adroitness it may have been different.

Beattie, just 21, is Newcastle's replacement for the departed Dean Ryan, and is twice as quick. From a lineout, he shaped to pop the ball to George Graham, Ben Sturham bought the dummy, Kevin Maggs was swept away, and Beattie made the line unmissed. Wilkinson converted and then kicked the winning penalty when Sturham infringed a minute before time. There was never a doubt he would miss.

Ulster 33 Stade Français 27
Henley 7-15 Bedford

BY TERRY COOPER

Bedford 22
Henley 29

Rudi Straeuli, the Bedford player-coach, who came out of retirement this year despite an ankle injury, said: "It is the worst result I have endured in the three years I have been at Bedford. Henley came with the desire and I don't think we had that element."

Henley were bristling with determination right from the start. Gavin Sharp caught a high kick and scooted in for the first of the eight tries with Roke converting the conversion.

Bedford's Jason Forster was

driven over from a lineout but Yapp's inaccurate afternoon began when he failed to convert, leaving Henley 7-5 ahead after just nine minutes.

Henley's lock Steve Berri-

man claimed a similar try in the 18th minute, only for the Bed-

ford full-back, Ben Whetstone,

to respond by gathering a grub-

ber kick and plunging over to make 12-10 to Henley.

Sharp scampered over for his second score in the 34th minute, with Roke again coo-

verting, but Whetstone again

stole down the blind side of a ruck for Bedford's third try.

Henley's 2-15 interval advantage was eroded in the 49th minute. Forster surged over from a lineout drive and maul. This time Yapp converted to level at 22-22.

The winning try came in the 57th minute when Phil Osman accepted the pass from his brother Russell to burst through feeble tackling finishing off a 70-yard movement.

Roke converted and Bedford

needed a converted try to draw

level, something they never

looked capable of.

Bedford 22 Henley 29

Gloucester 31 Bristol 19

London Irish 43

BY CHRIS HEWETT

Bristol 19

London Irish 43

visionary expertise at stand-off

underpinned the visitors'

hugely entertaining victory,

there was much to recommend in the Australian's performance.

"We drew the second half

19-all and I'm happy to settle for that," said Dwyer, who also

acknowledged that London Irish were, along with the more pragmatic Leicester, the form horses in this season's title race. It was a big occasion for the new Bristol, who had spent the previous week virtually demanding a place among the elite of English rugby's professional élite. Four tries and 24 points adrift at the break, a big embarrassment was on the cards.

To all intents and purposes,

the game was dead and buried

inside the first 13 minutes;

Bachop and Niall Woods

combined to give Conor O'Shea

the cleanest of opening strikes

and Bachop then orchestrated

a prolonged assault on a

ponderous Bristol defence to

give Woods his fifth try in six

days. Another millimetre-per-

fect cut-out pass from Bachop

sent Brendan Venter in for the

first of his two tries and before

half-time, Richard Kirke

claimed a more prosaic score

by working himself onto the end

of a spinning, churning maul.

Both sides scored four tries but

Duncan Roche's goal-kicking

proved the difference. He coo-

tered three tries and landed a

penalty for the visitors, while

Bristol's Tony Yapp had an

awful day with his boot, man-

aging just one conversion.

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New point to pursuit of fun in the field

The point-to-point season and a fresh search for potential champions has begun again. By Richard Edmondson

FOR THOSE who think of point-to-pointing as a jolly wheeze for country folk there will be some deliciously AA Milne racing venues this season in the shape of Dingley, Chaddesley Corbett and Friar's Haugh.

The wax jackets and wellingtons were liberated from cupboards for the first time this year yesterday, the 4x4s pointed in the direction of Cambridge, as Cottenham staged the first of 206 scheduled meetings across Britain this season. The mischievous could have seen some amusement at this East Anglian starting point.

It is not often you arrive at a racing venue to be greeted by dumb animals, unless you consider the old-style gatemen of Ascot, but spectators yesterday were met by cattle enjoying brunch in the restaurant of an immense shed.

The course itself resembled a dirty Deauville, around which the requisite canine accessory was not a poodle but rather a Jack Russell. The ubiquitous carvery was in place to ensure the horses ran faster and there was further typical rustic refreshment in the shape of chilli-jumbo sausage and Fanta.

Cochrane makes return to the track

RAY COCHRANE will be in action for the first time since his arrest on Friday by the Metropolitan Police in their ongoing investigation into race-fixing and doping when he rides at Southwell today.

Cochrane's agent, Andrew Gilbert, said yesterday: "Ray is very much looking forward to getting back to riding and he has got a couple of good chances tomorrow. Donna's Double has a good chance in the last judged on his two wins on the turf and Ritual Run is top-rated in the median auction."

Gilbert said that Cochrane's riding would not be affected by his arrest and rejoining until 10 March.

"He's not worried because he has got nothing to worry about," Gilbert said.

Graham Bradley, who was questioned with Cochrane at Charing Cross police station, bounced back to score on Luke Warm at Warwick on Saturday.

Tony McCoy, who is under scrutiny for nothing more serious than his riding style, was yesterday defended by David Johnson, the owner of Saturday's Midhurst/Cazalet Chase winner Eudipe. The stewards decided that McCoy had hit the horse in front of its quarters and

suspended him for two days. The offence triggered a further four-day ban, which was held over from last month.

"I was surprised to put it

RICHARD EDMONDSON

Nap: Salmon Breeze (Fakenham 2.40)
NB: Camden Road (Fontwell 1.00)

mildly, that the stewards decided to look at Tony's riding which I thought was brilliant," Johnson said.

"It's almost a persecution of Tony by the stewards and



Following the plough: Runners in the opener at Cottenham yesterday gallop around a circuit that surrounds a ploughed field

These days, though, you cannot be too rude about point-to-pointing. Not only is the sport a shadow of the hyphens-falling-to-earth image it once portrayed, but it has become a breeding ground for champions.

Coome Hill, Cool Dawn and See More Business have all emerged from the pointing field to greater glory, and this year we have witnessed perhaps the most celebrated graduate of them all, Teeton Mill.

The grey spent much of his life at Caroline Bailey's Northamptonshire livery yard, running in points and chasing Reynard. It must have been an unlucky fox indeed which had the future superstar urging the Pythons hounds on in pursuit.

Cottenham is almost the Maracana of this sport, a dedicated point-to-point track which even offers its own grandstand. As a reward it is one of the few circuits which is afforded four meetings a year.

They have raced here on this Cambridgeshire land for over 100 years and the site featured a National Hunt course until the 1920s. The territory is owned by Michael Gingell, who is also the Cam-

bridgeshire Harriers Hunt Club chairman and the entries' secretary. When there is an accident in the huntery parade ring it comes as something of a surprise that he doesn't also run out in a white coat with a shovel in his hand.

This is a sport for the amateur and not as expensive as National Hunt racing," Gingell says. "You can train a horse for pointing that you keep in your back yard."

It is not an arena much loved by James Fanshawe, though, because it is where he broke his neck, but for a fellow Newmarket trainer it is

twinned with Nirvana. Sir Mark Prescott has been the starter round these parts for 25 years, a position he inherited from Ryan Jarvis.

Sir Mark likes the sight of bull fighting, coursing, hunting and just about anything which occasionally ends in a dead animal, but it is a sound which most takes him the crackle of a jumping horse bursting through brash which he first remembers hearing as an eight-year-old. Those were the madcap days of point-to-point, times much missed by older devotees.

"This is like all country sports in

that it involves every sort of person and that's part of its attraction," Prescott says. "I suppose it might have been what some people considered a joke in the old days, but it isn't any more. When I was a kid it was more farmer-orientated. It was never nob-orientated. And now it's everybody. It was very bucolic before but gradually it's become increasingly professional and urbanised, a little bit less informal. Now there are more rules.

"It's not one man and his horse any more and we're becoming a bit more standardised, which is a

shame. I used to enjoy it when the hunt race was just that, with five fat old men going round in the first before the professionals had their go."

Point-to-pointing's primary function these days seems to be to provide the hookends for a National Hunt horse's career. It can be a kindergarten for young animals (and their jockeys), as well as the equivalent of a seafaring port for those who have retired for a bit of peace and quiet. "It's a wonderful schooling ground for the National Hunt horse and it's also a wonderful end-of-career part of the sport," Prescott

Robert Hallam

says. "Without it, there would be a gigantic hole at the veteran stages of a horse's life."

There were some old boys on parade in the Men's Open contest yesterday and Josh Gifford's former winning chaser Around The Horn suggested he had not been entirely withered by age when he transported Paul Hacking to victory.

They clapped the 12-year-old back mostly those who had backed him on the local Tote or with the on-course bookmakers. Indeed, most people seemed to have a good time. And the local foxes got the day off as well.

Thriller the Teeton toppler ready to run

BY MICK CONNAUGHTON

Double Thriller, yet to run in handicap chases, was having his second outing under Rules when winning by 12 lengths from Teeton Mill, who was conceding 8lb, over the Gold Cup trip at Cheltenham in April.

Call Equine, out of action since November 1997, was ridden by Tizzard in a schooling session with Flagship Uberalles over six fences after racing at Sandown on Saturday and reappears in Saturday's Victor Chandler Handicap Chase at Ascot if the going is not soft.

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Johnson just not magic enough

IT WAS nearly "magic" Johnson, but not quite. The Greater London Leopards handed the debutant Rashad Johnson the ball with four seconds on the clock and the assignment to hit the winning three-point shot. But the ball hit the rim and bounced away for the Sheffield Sharks to avenge their 1997 National Cup final defeat against the Leopards and delight the majority of the fans in the 6,000-plus crowd on their home court.

Leopards, the ailing Budweiser League champions, had staged an 18-point comeback over Newcastle Eagles to reach the final, and produced another revival from 13-0, to claw back Sheffield's lead in the second half and edge 57-55 ahead.

But Terrell Myers, whose three-pointers won the League trophy for Sheffield last season, steered the Sharks back on course with 17 second-half points to earn the MVP Award.

Johnson, who joined the club only on Friday, was a loose cannon in the Leopards' offence, but his pace and unpredictability caused Myers and Travis Conlan enough problems early on to disrupt the control they had exerted in two huge League wins over Leopards earlier in the season.

Johnson's mere presence created more room for Eric Burks, who found Robert Youngblood and Brian Moore under the basket with two breathtaking passes.

Youngblood's defensive rebounding and Tim Moore's offensive power held sway over Sheffield's Todd Cauthorn and Will Johnson. Conlan, inevitably, broke loose, drawing the scores level at 28, 30 and 32.

BASKETBALL
BY RICHARD TAYLOR
in Sheffield

points with three successive drives to the basket before Iain McKinney's three-pointer gave Shefford the lead at 35-34.

Conlan also made the last play of the half, stripping the ball from Stedman Baker to take a 39-36 lead at the interval.

Myers and Conlan stretched their advantage to 55-44 before Tim Moore started a 13-0 recovery over four minutes which threatened to turn the game as the Sharks' offence suddenly shuddered to a halt.

Burks put Leopards 64-61 ahead. Cauthorn and Conlan regained the lead for Shefford and then Tim Moore tied the scores at 65 with a single free-throw.

Sheffield were courtoriously awarded possession after Baker appeared to be bundled off the court and Myers profited with what proved to be the winning basket.

Finch claimed he did not begin preparations for the final until his team had survived Friday night's 92-85 double overtime win in the Budweiser League at Birmingham Bulets, which took them to joint leadership of the table with Manchester Giants.

Derby Storm recovered from Friday's surprising 73-72 overtime League defeat at Milton Keynes to beat Thames Valley Tigers 110-92 on Saturday, the League Trophy to the quarter-finals.

Scorers: Leopards: Burks 4, Youngblood 15, Johnson 15, Moore 22, Baker 2, Cauthorn 5, Conlan 16, Johnson 15, Myers 10, Shefford 1, McKinney 4, Myers 25, Cauthorn 8, Winkie 1, Conlan 16, Johnson 15.

FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS
LEADING TRADERS: 1. Kingchip Boy 12.50; 2. Luton 12.00; 3. Coventry 12.00; 4. Sutton Coldfield 12.00; 5. Chelmsford 12.00; 6. Bury 12.00; 7. Teesside 12.00; 8. Bradford 12.00; 9. Nottingham 12.00; 10. Merton 12.00; 11. Derby 12.00; 12. Luton 12.00; 13. Bury 12.00; 14. Coventry 12.00; 15. Chelmsford 12.00; 16. Bury 12.00; 17. Luton 12.00; 18. Bradford 12.00; 19. Merton 12.00; 20. Coventry 12.00; 21. Bury 12.00; 22. Luton 12.00; 23. Chelmsford 12.00; 24. Bury 12.00; 25. Luton 12.00; 26. Chelmsford 12.00; 27. Bury 12.00; 28. Luton 12.00; 29. Chelmsford 12.00; 30. Bury 12.00; 31. Luton 12.00; 32. Chelmsford 12.00; 33. Bury 12.00; 34. Luton 12.00; 35. Chelmsford 12.00; 36. Bury 12.00; 37. Luton 12.00; 38. Chelmsford 12.00; 39. Bury 12.00; 40. Luton 12.00; 41. Chelmsford 12.00; 42. Bury 12.00; 43. Luton 12.00; 44. Chelmsford 12.00; 45. Bury 12.00; 46. Luton 12.00; 47. Chelmsford 12.00; 48. Bury 12.00; 49. Luton 12.00; 50. Chelmsford 12.00; 51. Bury 12.00; 52. Luton 12.00; 53. 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One-day international: England put the boot in as Australia fall short of reaching revised target in rain-affected match

Mullally walks tall with size 12 shuffle

FOR A brief moment after England's rain-affected seven-run victory at the Gabba last night it was possible to think that the wrath of the authorities would be heaped on English cricket and that the whole contest would be subject to an inquiry about gambling on matches. Fortunately, it turned out that Alan Mullally was talking about bootmakers.

It was a member of that honourable profession who made a substantial contribution to England's cause at the start of the Carlton & United series. This makes for a healthy change. For weeks one-day cricket has been making headlines because of the unhealthy influence of bookmakers.

Not that the story which Mullally related after cutting through Australia's top order is anything other than bizarre. He took four wickets in 27 balls, just when it seemed the consensus that England were at least 30 runs short of a competitive score would be proved painfully accurate, and then explained how if it did not say too much for the meticulous preparations on which this England pride themselves, it was gripping stuff.

It seems that after a long tour Mullally's size 12s were rather more than down at heel. Ian Botham secured a replacement pair from Nike but when they arrived they were two sizes too small. Mullally had worn basketball boots before and found them to his liking so he took a wild chance and went to a Brisbane sports shop.

There he found a pair of basketball boots of the type promoted in return for a fortune by the great basketball player, Michael Jordan. The hooftaker was enlisted to sand down the sole and replace it with a leather version into which spikes were inserted. White tape was then liberally applied to the black segments on the uppers to make them look suitable for cricket.

By STEPHEN BRENKLEY
in Brisbane

England 178-8 in 50 overs
Australia 145-6 in 36 overs
England win on faster run rate

Mullally said they were the most comfortable pair of boots he had ever worn. "All I need now is \$40m (£25m) like Michael Jordan and I will be home and hosed," he said. His spell of eight overs merited the rewards it reaped.

The pitch, green and moist after heavy rain in Brisbane, was more like something in England in late May than the Gabba, which is generally reckoned to be the best one-day batting pitch around. It was here last week that England made 324.

The first success of the day was Alec Stewart's winning of the toss for the first time this winter in an international, was

match. After calling heads as usual he gave a little jig of delight. The feeling of relief lasted precisely one ball for him when England batted. Nick Knight played a maiden and then the England captain was palpably low to Adam Dale's first delivery.

It swiftly became clear that here was a pitch whose reputation, on the day at least, was false. The ball was moving if not alarmingly then enough to prevent assured strokeplay. In addition to which Australia's fielding and the field placings of their acting captain, Shane Warne, were both highly commendable.

None of the top batsmen managed to look truly in and though Graeme Hick was the victim of a dodgy decision there was also some pretty injudicious play. Vince Wells, who with Mark Alleyne was making his debut for England in a one-day international, was

not exactly out of his depth at No 3 though he looked a bit perplexed as Glenn McGrath greeted him with a burst of balls which made a statement something along the lines of "Welcome to the big time, mate."

Neil Fairbrother worked the ball around as usual best but it was not a comfortable process for this master of the rotating scoreboard. England were indebted to the ninth-wicket stand of 42 from 57 balls between Darren Gough and Robert Croft, using care and common sense.

It rained during the break and Australia lost 14 of their 50 overs. The revised target, assessed by a system of Australia's own invention rather than the Duckworth-Lewis method now favoured in most other places, left them needing 153 in 36 overs to pass England's 178.

When Gough failed to control the swinging white ball it seemed only a matter of how much Australia would help their run rate in securing victory. The Yorkistremen went for 32 of his first three overs. But at the other end Mullally was accurate and gaining movement. He bowled Adam Gilchrist with a beauty and though Mark Waugh played some sweet strokes, Australia went from 46 to 1 to 42 for 5.

There was still, however, the little matter of Michael Bevan, the most effective one-day batsman in the world. He ran swiftly between the wickets, aided by Brendon Julian. A tight finish looked likely but the run out of Warne by Mark Alleyne, moving swiftly to his left at mid-off, finally put it beyond Australia's reach (though their overall run rate was 4.02 compared to England's 3.56).

They needed 14 of the final over too many even for Bevan, who finished with 56 in 76 balls with just one four. He probably thought the match was a load of cobblers.



England's Alan Mullally celebrates claiming the valuable scalp of Australian opener Mark Waugh, caught behind by Alec Stewart for 23, in yesterday's one-day international at the Gabba in Brisbane. Allsport

Bribery 'not only in Pakistan'

THE Pakistan Cricket Board chairman, Khalid Mahmood, fears that betting and bribery in the sport may be widespread.

Mahmood, in New Zealand for the International Cricket Council's executive board meeting, which is grappling with the problem of corruption, hinted that match-fixing may not be confined to Pakistan.

"Match fixing and betting is an issue we are currently investigating and this can be more widespread than perceived to be," he said.

Former Pakistan captains Wasim Akram and Salim Malik, Ejaz Ahmed, Mushtaq Ahmed and Waqar Younis are all under investigation by a judicial commission. The International Cricket Council chairman, Sir Clyde Walcott, said a draft proposal on match-fixing was being prepared.

The ICC has yet to decide how to tackle the match-fixing scandal. Its chief executive, David Richards, said the sport's governing body wanted first to set up an independent inquiry into the allegations.

A spokeswoman for New Zealand Cricket, which is hosting the key meeting in Christchurch, said the matter was discussed at the start of the ICC's two-day executive board meeting but was post-

poned until today after delegates moved to less complicated issues.

The Australian umpire Darrell Hair was interviewed by the ICC yesterday after Sri Lanka complained about comments he made about the action of spinner Muttiah Muralitharan.

Hair called Muralitharan for throwing seven times during a 1995 Test and later wrote that his action was "diabolical". The Sri Lankans called on the ICC to charge him with bringing the game into disrepute. A decision on Hair is expected today.

The Australian wicketkeeper, Ian Healy, has refused to comment on a suggestion he may

have deliberately missed a stump in a one-wicket loss to Pakistan in 1994. Azmat Saeed, a lawyer representing the former Pakistan captain Salim Malik, put the suggestion to former Test spinner Tim May as the inquiry into match-fixing continued in Melbourne.

Healy allowed four leg byes from the bowling of Shane Warne, giving Pakistan a one-wicket win in the first Test of the 1994 series, which decided the series. Healy said he did not wish to dignify the suggestion by commenting on it.

When Saeed put the match-fixing suggestion to May he replied: "Absolutely not."

Pearn's potent spells

MARK PEARN, with two inspirational spells, clinched a place for the defending champions, Reading, in their final game in the National Indoor Club Preliminary round as they beat Old Loughtoniens 6-3 at Cocks Moors Woods, Birmingham.

Pearn scored twice in an opening 13-minute spell to put Reading ahead and made a third for Manpreet Kochar. After the interval when Old Loughtoniens had drawn level at 3-3 following two goals inside a minute from Ian Jennings, Pearn burst into action again with two more goals to seal Reading through.

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Duval has eighth victory in his sights

GOLF

DAVID DUVAL ended the day as he started it, with a five-stroke lead after the third round of the season-opening Mercedes Championship. He closed in on the eighth victory in his past 27 starts on the PGA Tour by carding a five-under-par 68 on the Kapalua Resort's Plantation course, which played longer than usual following heavy overnight rain.

He stood at 21-under, 198 with one round left, while Fred Funk was next at 203 after a 68. Billy Mayfair, who carded a 69, was another stroke behind after Saturday's play.

Tiger Woods excited his gallery with six birdies for a flawless 67, but it was only enough to move him into a tie for fourth with Jim Furyk and Vijay Singh, seven strokes off the lead.

Duval's round included six birdies and one bogey, his only blemish coming at the par-four 16th where he drove into a fairway bunker ending a run of 44 holes without a bogey.

"Anytime you make five or six birdies in a round you can't complain," said Duval, who had 10 birdies in his course-record tying second round.

Rolph has that golden look

SUE ROLPH claimed her third gold medal after the second day of competition in the Fina World Cup Short-Course championships in Hong Kong.

The Briton won the 100m freestyle in 55.52sec, before winning the 100m individual medley in 1:02.58. On Saturday, she had shared the gold medal in the 50m freestyle after a rare dead-heat with Sophia Skou of Denmark.

Skou and the 16-year-old Canadian Kelly Stefanyshyn were also seeking a hat-trick, with

SWIMMING

Skou taking the gold yesterday in the 200m butterfly in 2:10.17, and then winning the 50m freestyle in 27.58. The Germans topped the medal standings with eight golds.

Sylvia Gerasch won the women's 50m breaststroke in 31.74 for her second medal. On Saturday, she took the gold in the 100m breaststroke. Also in action yesterday,

German Ina Huetting won the women's 200m breaststroke in 2:55.62. Results, Digest, page 20

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Coach takes Liverpool back to school

THE GAME was over 30, maybe 45 minutes, and Gérard Houllier was unrepentant. "Two months ago we wouldn't have been able to play as we did today," the Liverpool manager said.

Wouldn't have been able to frustrate Arsenal with a game plan that went against what many imagine to be Houllier's philosophy, wouldn't have survived the siege that called for heroic defending.

Schooling his players in the departmental efficiency that stood out in Liverpool's past domination of English football has been a priority for Houllier since the departure of Roy



KEN JONES

Evans left him in sole charge of the team. Until that has been achieved to the Frenchman's satisfaction Liverpool are unlikely to travel with thoughts of artistic impression.

Hence the strategy that saw their wing-backs, Viegard Heggem and Steve Harkness, held back and the urgent reminders of defensive responsibility that went out from the touchline to Michael Owen.

If the outcome, a 0-0 draw

that raised a chant of "bo-ring Liverpool", left Arsenal's manager, Arsène Wenger, with an attack of post-match blues, he refused to be drawn into criticism of his compatriot's obvious intentions. "It isn't possible to order how the opposition plays," he said, "but we found great difficulty in breaking them down."

Uppermost in Wenger's mind was the discouraging fact that Arsenal's territorial superiority did not lead to one clear opening: Whiplash shots from Emmanuel Petit, Marc Overmars and Ray Parlour hit nothing that greatly troubled Liverpool's goalkeeper, David James.

Troubles are again piling up for Wenger, injuries and suspensions putting further strain on a squad that is in urgent need of replenishment. Tony Adams tests his fitness in the reserves today but Steve Bould, who went off after 32 minutes, will probably need a cartilage operation and Patrick Vieira is coming up to a three-match ban.

Add the continuing absence of Dennis Bergkamp and it is no wonder that Wenger wore a hang-dog expression. "I think Dennis would have made a difference," Wenger said dolefully. "Liverpool had so many players back that it needed something special to open them up."

At an age when his form is sure to fluctuate, Nicolas Anelka managed little and once Liverpool put the squeeze on Overmars the best Arsenal could hope for was a lapse in Liverpool's concentration. The concession of a goal would have forced Liverpool to be more ambitious but the risk

in Arsenal's forward momentum was that Owen would be left with space to attack.

Sent clear by Patrik Berger's immaculate through ball, Owen had an opportunity to put Liverpool ahead but not the left foot to take advantage of it, a prod with the outside of his right boot ending up in the side netting.

Houllier insists that the pairing of Owen and Robbie Fowler can be effective enough to offset the disadvantage of being left without an aerial option. "I don't see why it shouldn't work," the Liverpool manager said. "Robbie is good in the air for a smallish man

and Michael will get better." Even so, Liverpool's centres were sent deep, one setting Steve Harkness up for a volley that tested Alex Manninger's reflexes.

Liverpool never again came as close to penetrating Arsenal's defences but not even the loss of Steve Staunton with a groin strain could undermine their resolution.

The signs are that Houllier is getting somewhere with a club that has seen its share of scandal and a breakdown of trust with its supporters. "I think our players have taken on board what we expect of them," Houllier added. "No, it wasn't that difficult, but I repeat, we wouldn't have put up such a fight two months ago."

It had not been difficult to imagine the scene in their dressing-room. Words of praise from Houllier and his assistant Phil Thompson. Back slaps all round. No mention of entertainment.

Arsenal (4-4-2): Manninger; Dixon, Keown, Bould (Wilson, 32), Grindon; Parkin, Vieira, Petit, Overmars (Garde, 84); Boa Morte, Anelka (Wright, 87). Substitutes used: Boudreau, Dicks, Lumb (Lumb, 64). Liverpool (3-5-2): James, Carragher, Staunton (Mazzeo, 62), Babb, Heggem, Incze, Redknapp, Berger, Harkness, Fowler, Owen, Wilson (McKee, 70). Referee: G Barber (Ring, Herts). Bookings: Arsenal: Keown; Liverpool: Babb, Redknapp, Incze. Man of the match: Petit. Attendance: 38,107.



Chelsea's Dennis Wise slides in to challenge Norberto Solano of Newcastle United during Saturday's Premiership encounter at St James' Park

Huckerby unhinges sad Forest

BY NICK HARRIS

Coventry City 4
Nottingham Forest 0

You might not agree with his method of protest, but Pierre van Hooijdonk was right all along. Nottingham Forest have the ambition of a copout and a playing style to match.

If ever there was a match where they should have found inner strength for the fight against relegation, it was on Saturday.

Instead - Van Hooijdonk and Steve Stone aside - they appeared witness and disheartened. They allowed Coventry City and especially Darren Huckerby - whose superbly taken hat-trick was his second treble in two weeks - to walk all over them.

"The situation needs resolving one way or the other, and I hope it is resolved next week," Micky Adams, the Forest caretaker, said after the match on the subject of a replacement for the sacked manager, Dave Bassett.

"The unsettled situation is not helping," he added, with a touch of understatement. "I would think that result would have a shattering effect on morale, and the air of uncertainty round the place needs to be resolved one way or the other."

If a copy of the Highfield Road massacre reaches Ron Atkinson in the Bahamas before he agrees, as anticipated, to take over from Bassett, he may well think again.

Then again, maybe not, as his contract would only be short-term - much like the foresight of the Forest board have seemed in recent years - and he will be in a no-lose situation.

Should Forest go down, he can hold his hands up and say he was brought in too late. If by some miracle - probably the sale of Stone and Van Hooijdonk and the recruitment of three or four players who might turn things around - they manage to stay up, he will relish the role of saviour.

His predecessor was left to reflect on the work still to be done before the green shoots of a Newcastle revival are seen at St James' Park.

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SPORT

BOXING'S BRIGHTEST HOPE P16 • THE RUGBY PRIDE OF ULSTER P17

United run on Cole power

BY GUY HODGSON

Manchester United 4
West Ham United 1

THE LIGHTS went out at Old Trafford yesterday but there was nothing wrong with the connections to Manchester United's power source. They comprehensively outplayed a desperate West Ham to move ominously within two points of the top of the Premiership.

Peter Schmeichel was on holiday in the Caribbean and his replacement Reinoud van der Gouw might have gone with him because the electricians combating the power cut that put the game back 45 minutes had to work harder than the home players.

Yes, West Ham were that bad. The visitors scored through Frank Lampard only in the closing seconds whereas Alex Ferguson's team could have doubled their tally. Appropriately, on a day the electricity failed it was Andy Cole who was the most potent source of power with two goals and there was one apiece for Dwight Yorke and Ole Gunnar Solskjær.

The afternoon began in low gear when the electricity supply failed 25 minutes before the scheduled kick-off. The Theatre of Dreams was plunged into the twilight zone and there was a serious risk that the match would have to be called off. For a crowd of 55,180, many of whom had travelled a long way, it was not amusing. The urgent requests for a Norweh engineer did not encourage optimism but eventually power returned stand by stand and the game kicked off at 4.45pm.

For what is regarded as the best-equipped ground in English football it was not an auspicious start or a happy advertisement for the game in this country. The lights were back on but someone appeared to have pulled the plug on West Ham, who were so poor they barely struggled into the opposition half.

Harry Redknapp's line-up was peculiar, with Ian Pearce left high and dry as a wing-back dealing with the tide of Jesper Blomqvist. To blame Pearce alone would be unfair, however, because the whole West Ham defence was a mess; their midfield was riddled with holes, and their attack non-existent.

Within 50 seconds it was clear West Ham had problems because there was a mix-up between Pearce and Steve Potts and Cole fired in a low shot that Shaka Hislop had to save low by the post. Five minutes later Ryan Giggs' curling shot was only just wide and it seemed not a question of if the home team would score but



Nicky Butt, the Manchester United midfielder (right), and West Ham's Steve Lomas attempt to control a bouncing ball at Old Trafford yesterday

Allsport

when the answer was nine minutes. Roy Keane drove a pass into the heart of the West Ham defence where Cole spun swiftly and found Yorke on the right edge of the area. The angle was not promising but the power and the accuracy of the shot was such that it crashed past Hislop into the far corner.

Three minutes later it should have been 2-0 as Blomqvist continued to torment Pearce. This time the cross was poor but the defending was worse and when Neil Ruddock missed the

You would not have wanted

ball completely Cole should have reacted more quickly at the far post. Instead he dallied and allowed Hislop to block.

The home team pored forward, West Ham adopted an 8-2 formation and the only surprise was that the second goal was so long in coming. When it did, after 39 minutes, it was the result of a miscue by Nicky Butt whose shot was nevertheless powerful enough to strike a post. The rebound fell to Cole, and Dennis Irwin alone could have scored twice, first heading to beat Hislop's charge with a chip then heading over a vacant

net after Butt's shot had rebounded to him from Hislop's save.

You cannot allow Ferguson's team so many chances and expect to survive and Andy Cole got his second after 67 minutes, driving across Hislop and into the far corner from Yorke's pass. Solskjær got the fourth, heading in powerfully after Giggs' flick had ballooned into the air of Hislop's body.

Lampard gave West Ham some respectability two minutes from the end. They scarcely de-

served it. If West Ham had won they would have been alongside yesterday's opponents this morning. Instead they were light years apart.

Goals: Yorke (10) 1-0; A Cole (40) 2-0; A Cole (57) 3-0; Solskjær (60) 4-0; Lampard (69) 4-1.

Managers: United (4-4-2); Van der Sar (4-4-2). West Ham (3-5-1-1); Potts (4-4-2). **Substitutes:** Pearce (for Cole); Irvin; Giggs; Butt (for Solskjær); Yorke (for Giggs); Butt (for Solskjær); Cole; Yorke. **Sent-offs:** not used: Beckham, Culkin (pk). **West Ham United:** (3-5-1-1); Potts; Potts; Irvin; Lampard; Lazaridis; Bent; Harrison; Sebastian; not used: Abou; Breckin; Irickson; Forrest (pk). **Bookings:** not used: Cole; Solskjær; Lampard; Bent; Cole; Irvin; Giggs; Butt. **Man of the match:** Butt. **Attendance:** 55,180.

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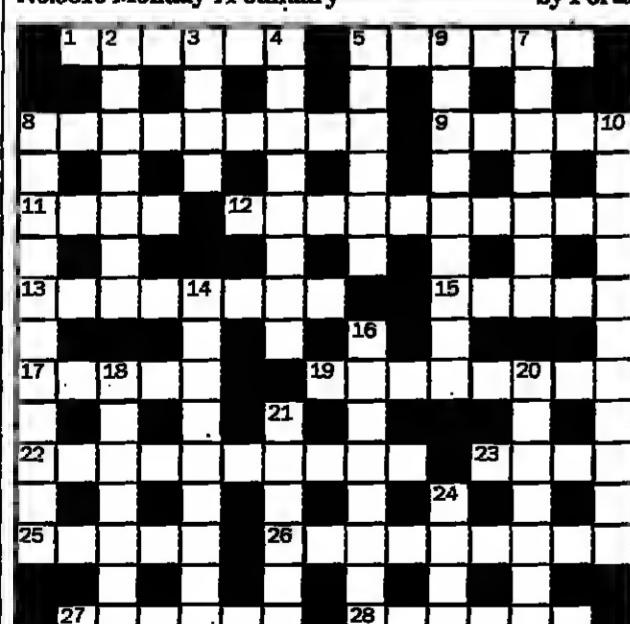
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THE MONDAY CROSSWORD

No.3816 Monday 11 January

by Portia



- ACROSS**
- Structure I found in great religion (6)
 - Moving fast to conceal one's never-ending plan (6)
 - Message of Christmas? (9)
 - Check out a form of energy (5)
 - Return visit to home of mythological figure (4)
 - No longer having any orders to get off (3,2,5)
 - Vessel that sailed on the flood tide? (5,3)
 - Sounds like a crooked old house (5)
 - Since then follows the Northern Italian poet (5)
 - Notice on passing (8)
 - Discomfit member going back on bone-shaker (10)
 - Work with almost the whole quantity of stone (4)
 - Architectural style of

Toledo Richard studied (5)
26 As a rule information is given before key meeting (9)
27 Flushed main? (3,3)
28 Lifetime without belief leads to despair (6)

DOWN

- A large number attached to health land (7)
- Count the cost (4)
- Masters a children's game, say (8)
- Role that may be loaded against one? (6)
- Tough for one guy stuck in bed (9)
- Comfort one having nothing for so long (7)
- Kind of drag on, due to breakdown (4-7)
- Religious whodunit? (7,4)
- In another way European has close ties (9)
- Come by with chap who was in force (8)
- Put Rex in charge of rescue (3,4)
- Roman pottery articles possess mass attraction (7)
- Troy's involved in Greek character's disgrace (6)
- District's lacking money for music and drama (4)
- Work with almost the whole quantity of stone (4)
- Architectural style of

Australia fall to Mullally's spell

ALAN MULLALLY once again proved England's lucky charm at the Gabba as they got their one-day campaign off to a winning start yesterday.

The Leicestershire paceman, who had to customise a pair of basketball boots in order to take the field, proved the difference with a match-winning spell of 4 for 12 in 27 balls as England won a thrilling match by virtue of a faster run rate in a rain-affected match - the first of the Carlton and United triangular series.

His performance followed his Test figures of 5 for 105 in the opening Ashes Test on the same ground in November, and he took three wickets in 18 balls in last Friday's win over Queensland. No doubt Mullally would like to set up camp at the Gabba instead of jetting around Australia for the remaining matches.

In addition to his wickets, the Leicestershire man claimed a tricky boundary catch off Damien Fleming, managing to hold on despite slipping.

"Conditions suited me out there and I just did my job," added Mullally, who was not included in England's original 37-strong World Cup party.

"The ball I got Adam Gilchrist with was meant to go

page 20

**Juninho
has Villa
'in his
sights'**

BY MARK PIERSON

THE BRAZILIAN international Juninho yesterday dropped a sizable hint that he is interested in returning to England and joining Aston Villa.

John Gregory, the Villa manager, is thought to be stepping up his efforts to sign the former Middlesbrough midfielder while Juninho's agent, Gianni Paladini, has indicated the player would be willing to reduce his wage demands, something that has scuppered any deal with Villa in the past.

Juninho, who is also a target for Barcelona, is unhappy at Atletico Madrid because of the tactics of the coach, Arriaga Sacchi. Paladini said: "Juninho would like to play for Aston Villa because he likes John Gregory's ways and the fact that he has a successful team. If he came back to England, Villa would be in his sights. Juninho met John Gregory a few months ago and was impressed."

Dave Bassett, the sacked Nottingham Forest manager, has admitted he refused to allow Pierre van Hooijdonk into the room when he bade farewell to the players. Bassett said he would have been a "hypocrite" if he had attempted to make up with the Dutch striker, who refused to play for Forest for the first three months of the season.

"There was no point in me sitting down and pretending that I liked him and he liked me," Bassett said.

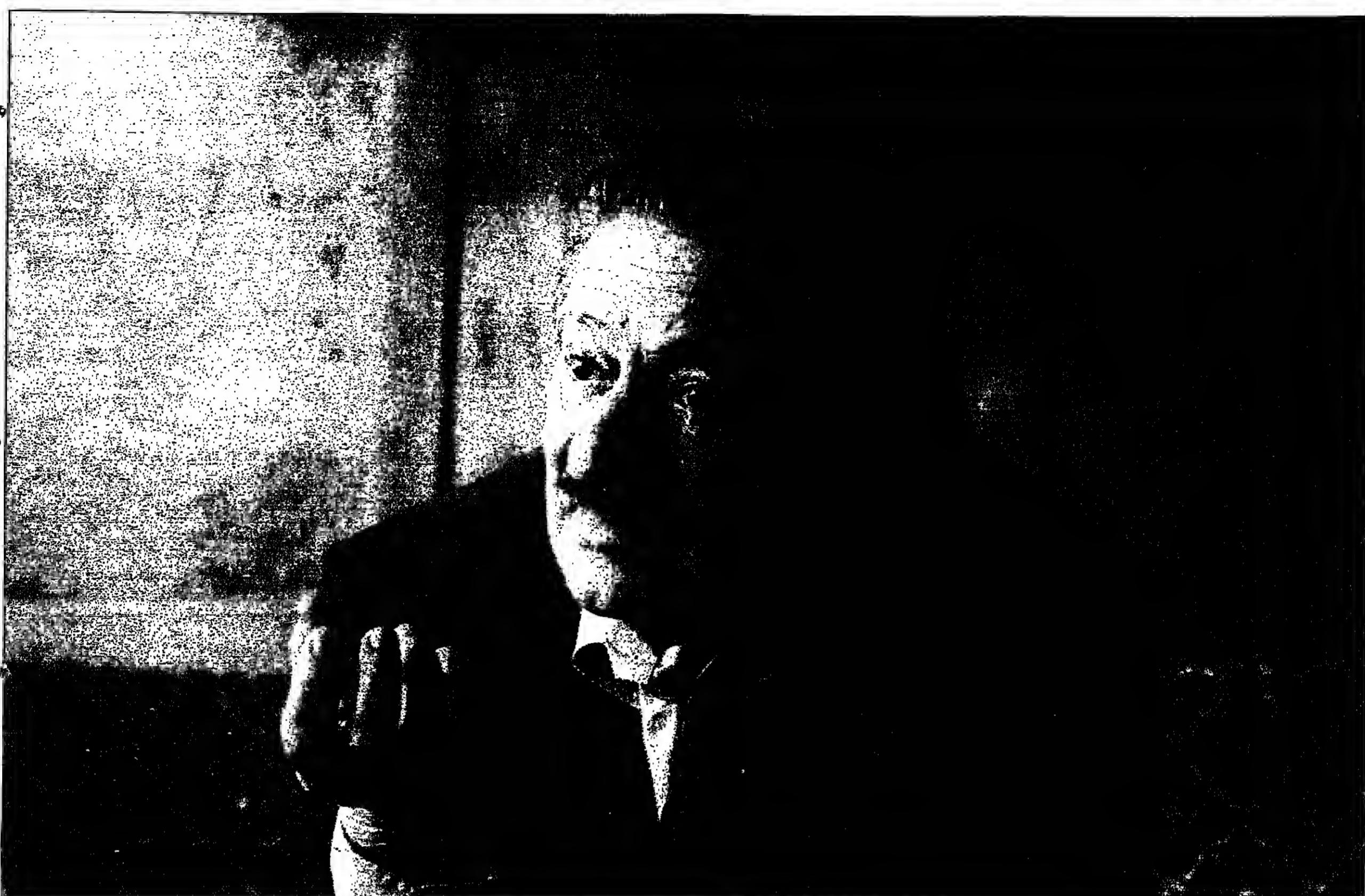
"I basically said I didn't want Pierre in the room - I wanted to speak to the players who I felt worked hard for me and gave their best. I lost respect for him for what he did - he's a decent player but when a player does that in my book they don't deserve respect."

"There was no point in being a hypocrite. When Pierre came back he never apologised to anybody and I thought a little bit of humility would have been right."

MONDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION

Tina Pistor



New kid on the Street

At 70 Saeed Jaffrey is still brilliantly childlike. Doesn't understand money. Can't set a video. Can't drive. But – as viewers of Coronation Street will soon see – he can act

Off then, to meet Saeed Jaffrey – OBE, film star, TV star and, now, owner of the corner shop in *Coronation Street* – at what turns out to be his local. "Hello, darling!" he cries when he finds me waiting for him. He gives me a big embrace. He holds my shoulders steady with his small, plump hands. I am squashed up against his dapper chocolate-brown Cerutti suit and glorious tie with its gold, bronze, red and green swirls. "It is rather magnificent, isn't it?" He's a bit of a one for des. "Whenever I walk down Oxford Street I see thousands of lies and there is always one that winks at me and says 'get me out of here', so I huy it." He kisses me moistly and lingeringly on both cheeks. He has a little, bushy moustache. I think this is what it must feel like to be seduced by a damp nail brush. It's not entirely unpleasant in its ticklish way.

Certainly he seems a frisky sort of fellow. I even say later: "You're quite a frisky sort of fellow, aren't you, Saeed?" He takes this as a great compliment and merrily acknowledges he most certainly is. "Oh yes. Many scores of ladies have come into my life and gone away happy." How many is that exactly, Saeed? "It wouldn't do to count. How egomaniacal! I never view my ladies as conquests. Still, there was a rather divine period after I split up from Madhur [Jaffrey, the actress-turned-cook who was his first wife] when I decided I would please as many women as possible. Then, I think it was 21 ladies in 21 nights." Truly! I gasp. Heavens, that even beats my own remarkable record of three in 37 years, all of whom were gone by morning and had somehow managed to leave the wrong phone numbers, the silly billys. "Oh yes, I have spread a lot of love," Saeed replies. Then: "You're not 37, are you? You only look 26, darling!" Normally, I am not the least susceptible to such crude flattery, except on those occasions when I'm, which is often. Strangely, I find I like him

quite excessively from this moment on.

His local is The Bridge Hotel in Greenford, an unfashionable and rather ugly west London suburb which hugs the A40. Saeed lives in a semi-round the corner. He says that whenever nouveau riche Indians give him lifts home they are perplexed. "They say, 'Saeed, you living here? A big star like you?' But I like it here. I took a small part in *Death on the Nile* to pay the deposit on the house. Why do I need something showy?"

We move into the bar. He knows all the staff. "Martin!" he cries out to the barman. "This is my very good friend from *The Independent*. She is writing a very BIG piece on me. A glass of

is terribly upset it hasn't been more extensively reviewed. "You will do what you can, won't you? I don't understand it. It's such a very good book. Tell everyone to GET MY BOOK." I don't think the pressures of public life are going to ever put him in the Charter Clinic, frankly.

He has received a good deal of attention here, and rightly so. He has turned in many excellent performances both on television (*Jewel in the Crown*, *For Pavilions*, *Tandoori Nights*, *Gangsters*) and in the cinema (*A Passage to India*, *The Man Who Would Be King*, *My Beautiful Laundrette*). But he is even more famous in Hollywood, where he has made over 100 films ("I'm usually the naughty uncle... sometimes you only get the script half an hour before going on") and is much-acclaimed by teenage girls who, he insists rapturously, "swoon, blow kisses and say: 'You are the most adorable cutie pie in the industry.' When I tell him that starring in *Coronation Street*, the most popular programme in Britain, will mean he won't be able to go down to Tesco without being harassed for autographs, he is ecstatic. "How perfectly lovely," he sighs.

He makes his debut in the soap, playing Ravi Desai, next week. He says that, on the whole, he prefers *Coronation Street* to *EastEnders*, "which I find a bit violent". He says the call from the producer came out of the blue. "I then had lunch with him and was on top form. Top form! I did my impressions of Marlon Brando and Marilyn Monroe and Michael Caine. Tab or nah tab be... who wright this shit? Hah! Hah! The next Monday they phoned my wife, Jennifer, who is also my agent, and said we would love to have him. And I thought, why not?"

He doesn't, as yet, know quite what his character is going to get up to. "But I have met the scriptwriters, and I said: 'Please, no stereotypes. No Mr Patel with his newspapers.' They said: 'Don't worry, Saeed. We have lots planned for you! Who do you think they will get me involved with?' Romantically, you mean? 'Of course!' Well, I suggest, Rita is possibly ripe for the picking. She may even be over-ripe. 'Yes, Rita! That

would be good.' While you're about it, I continue, you might even have a poke about in her hairdo. It's become so spectacularly enormous lately I'm pretty convinced Mavis is hiding in there. 'I will! I will!' he exclaims. Then, excitedly: "I think I could bring great comfort to Rita. Great comfort! Yes! Another Chardonnay, Martin!" Wine doesn't produce verbal violence in you, then? "No darling. It just relaxes me."

Saeed Jaffrey is 70, but still brilliantly childlike. He lives blissfully in the present. He can do little for himself. He doesn't understand money. He can't set a video. He can't drive. Jennifer looks after him almost entirely. "Jennifer says I wouldn't know how to pay an electricity bill, and she's right." He says he sometimes calls her mummy. He adds that they've never had children together because "she says I am her child. That's the sort of affection we have for each other". This sounds a bit creepy, I know, and it would be if there were any kind of malice to him, but I don't think there is. Although, that said, he does occasionally like to put the boot in. He never much cared for David Lean, for instance, who directed him as Godbole in the film version of EM Forster's *A Passage to India*. "My part was halved, and the more interesting lines were given to Art Malik, a north Londoner who had to put on a phoney accent." However, this is more, I think, petulance than any true nastiness. He just hasn't learned to share his toys quite yet.

Mostly, he loves everybody. In particular, he loves Michael Caine. "He once saved my honour, but I'm not going to tell you about it. OK, maybe I will. No, I won't. Yes, I will! On the first day of filming *The Man Who Would Be King* [John Huston's take on the Kipling short story] this racist assistant director said: 'Mr Connery, this is your chair with your name on it. Mr Caine, this is yours.' So Michael said: 'Where is Saeed's chair?' The assistant said: 'I've got him a stool. Indians are used to sitting anywhere.' So Michael shouted: 'Come here, you racist, fucking gofer! Where is Saeed's bloody chair! With-

Continued on page 8

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Lower drink limit

Sir: It is hard to see why the lower number of positive drink-drive tests recorded last Christmas should lead you to the conclusion that lowering the present legal drink drive limit would have "little effect". "A realistic approach to drink-driving", 8 January.

If anything, a lower limit would act as an even greater deterrent to those drivers who believe that they can risk a certain number of drinks and still be in a fit state to drive. If they know that the legal amount of alcohol is closer to zero, even some of the "hard core" you mention are surely less likely to take such a risk.

Virtually everyone concerned about deaths on our roads has registered their approval of lowering the limit from 80mgs of alcohol per 100mls of blood to 50mgs - including the police.

Indeed both the Government and the police agree that such a reduction would save in the region of 50 of the 500 lives lost every year due to drinking drivers.

ERIC APPLEBY
Director
Alcohol Concern
London SE1

Sir: In concluding that the present legal drink-driving limit is right, you have overlooked the research linking blood alcohol levels and likelihood of involvement in a crash.

The Grand Rapids Study in 1962-63 and reviewed in 1991 and 1994 indicated that the relative risk of involvement in a collision is 1.5 times higher with a blood alcohol level between 50mg and 90mg.

Those risks are substantially higher for young and inexperienced drivers. That is why the lowering of the legal level is an important step forward in further reductions in drink-drive fatalities.

ROBERT GIFFORD
Executive Director
Parliamentary Advisory
Council for Transport Safety
London SE1

Sir: You rightly praise the success that the drink-driving campaigns have achieved over the years. The same approach now needs to be applied to other road-safety issues, and particularly to speeding.

Excessive speed is the cause of over one third of fatal crashes each year and plays a major role in over half of them. Speeding drivers kill and injure many more people than do drunk drivers.

High-profile advertising campaigns, sound laws (properly enforced) and deterrent sentences - the measures which have cut drink-driving - could be as effective in dealing with speeding motorists as they have been with drunk drivers.

JOHN STEWART
Chairman, RoadPeace
London NW10

Farmers' futures

Sir: There is a way to satisfy both sides of the debate on whether agriculture is a business or a trust for the future (letters, 7 January).

Farmers should bypass the supermarket system and set up their own trading arm to sell goods direct to the public, rather like Traidcraft does for Third World products. The National Farmers' Union could organise it.

Those people who think farmers are altruistic hard-working custodians of our countryside would be able to pay direct and see their money going straight to the producer, supporting the environment and the rural economy.

Those who think that farmers are a bunch of whingeing pesticide-happy subsidy-junkies would be free to buy cheaper and better quality food from more efficient overseas producers.

Everybody wins.

The Rev DAVID E FLAVELL
Liverpool

Sir: Sean Rickard's article has given me a clue: the 25 per cent of farmers he says are responsible for 75 per cent of our agricultural products are also those who killed off 75 per cent of the population of many birds, pointed the skylark and the thrush towards extinction within a decade, and gave the world BSE. This is efficient?

Dr DAVID WALTER
London N14

Teenage sex

Sir: The best measures to reduce teenage pregnancies are those that work, and, as Vicki Milner points out (letter, 5 January), good sex education has proved most effective in other countries, notably the Netherlands.

But the fact is that, until very recently in history, almost all human societies have regarded pregnancy outside of marriage as highly morally reprehensible. There can be little doubt that this moral norm evolved to protect the community from having children with no means of support born into it.

Traditional agrarian societies controlled their birth rate by two taboos. Young people were not allowed to marry until they had land to farm, or a trade by which to support a family. Sexual intercourse outside of marriage was restricted by moral sanction. By these means the birth rate was tied to economic production and a rough balance kept.

As a moral code with a practical purpose, it must have worked, or it wouldn't have lasted so long or been so universal. Yes, it involved being judgmental, and stigmatising those who broke the code as immoral, but that was the whole idea. It was far kinder in the long run than the poverty and starvation that followed from more children being born than could be comfortably supported.

This ancient code only broke down within the last 40 years, under the influence of easy and effective contraception and a welfare state.

I am not suggesting for a moment that our society faces the same dangers from teenage pregnancy as would, say, a medieval subsistence village community, but the same underlying moral principles still apply. It is wrong to produce children that you cannot support yourself. As a society we do a disservice to young people if we do not express proper disapproval of behaviour that harms society.

For a young teenage girl to get pregnant is a wrong thing to do, and to hide that fact from her would be to lie to her.

K HAGGETT
Lincoln

Losing the spark

Sir: Although I agree with the sentiment of A J Williams's letter (7 January), I can shed some light on why old computers are generally not redistributed to schools.

In most companies new computers are given to the

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Letters may be edited for length and clarity

benefit. A "budget" new model may well work out cheaper.

DUNCAN G REED

Tunbridge Wells,

Kent

NHS winter

Sir: A contributory factor to the current crisis in the NHS is the poor performance of management.

There is no shortage of this burgeoning group in health authorities and trusts. A significant proportion of whom are unable or unwilling to make essential decisions involving vast sums of money which affect patients.

Services. The Government's penchant for reorganisation means that, in many health authorities and trusts, management's sole preoccupation is with survival.

The service is failing, trusts are merged, causing, on average, two years of operational blight, making dentistry savings in the case of one own trust, less than £100,000, but the same manager is again slotted into post.

The NHS apparently cannot afford redundancy payments, but it simply cannot afford to keep recycling fired management.

In any sensible organisation, mergers are followed by a robust reorganisation and a new management body.

Dr GRAINNE EVANS

Consultant Paediatrician

Community Child Health

Farnham, Kent

Sir: The current winter crisis is a repetition of problems that occur year after year in the health service, has created huge problems for overstretched general practitioners, community nurses, ambulance service, accident and emergency departments and hospital services, including intensive care units.

There are many causes for the latest crisis, including viral illnesses, inadequate hospital and intensive care beds, a shortage of nurses and underfunding.

It does not help, however, to make unfounded assertions that general practitioners have not been there for patients who need them ("Casualty ward is bursting at seams", 6 January). GPs are obliged to provide care, personally or by delegating their responsibilities to a deputy, or a deputising service, and there is no evidence that they have been failing to meet their obligations.

The accounts are independently audited and are open to inspection by the Charity Commission.

The trust has been welcomed into a range of prison regimes by governors, the Prison Officers Association, staff, chaplains and inmates as a breath of fresh air.

JOHN ADAMS
Chairman of Trustees
The Kairos/APAC Trust
Witney
Oxfordshire

Prison trust head

Sir: Ken Jones, the director of the Kairos/APAC Trust, has been employed by the trust for nearly two years ("The evangelical fraudster tasked with showing prisoners the light", 8 January).

During this period he has worked with great energy, vision and commitment for the benefit of men and women in prison.

He has gained the respect of many professional people in the prison service and the charitable sector and during his time with the trust there has been no question about his integrity.

The trust has proper financial procedures in place with checks and balances. Ken Jones is not a signatory for the accounts, at his own request, nor does he undertake any financial administration. He knows more than anyone the need for the financial accounting to be transparent and above reproach.

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JOHN ADAMS
Chairman of Trustees
The Kairos/APAC Trust
Witney
Oxfordshire

The use of ABC

Sir: One would have hoped that the teacher of Peter Lockwood's friend (letter, 7 January) would have explained to him that it doesn't matter what order the letters of the alphabet are in, as long as the order is standardised, and that he knows it.

Otherwise we would have difficulty using a telephone directory or a dictionary.

Years ago I met a 10-year-old with exactly this problem. He had been taught to read by the "look and say" method, but had never been taught the alphabet.

Dr DAVID ZUCK

London N12

Euro query

Sir: I have read many deep letters and articles in *The Independent* about the political and financial implications of the Euro, but for us ordinary punters the sort of thing that really matters is what do we get for change for a loaf of bread costing, say, 0.55 of a euro?

Will the shopkeeper say "Here is 0.45 of a euro" or "Here are 45 eurocents/eurowheavers?"

J DAVID WRIGHT
Harby, North Yorkshire

Signs of God 1: Shadows reproduce a signed conversation at Marian House, a semi-detached house in Cardiff that acts as the centre of a Christian community for the deaf in south Wales

Tim Hetherington

most demanding users, and their old computers are passed down to users with lesser needs. This continues until the machine is no longer fit for purpose, generally at least three years. By this time the machine will be very

dated, and its hard disk will contain potentially sensitive data. This will need to be securely wiped before the machine leaves the company's possession; destruction can be cheaper if the disk is wiped the

computer is left with no operating system or other software.

Since many businesses use corporate or site licences for software, it is generally not possible to legally pass on any software with the machine.

Thus the beneficiary receives an out-of-date machine, for which software must be purchased.

School equipment doesn't have to be at the leading edge of technology, but it must be in sight of it to be of real

IN BRIEF

January) two of the questions concerned myself. Number 10 related me quite correctly to my brother Rowan - he specialises in comedy and I in tragedy (British and European politics).

However question number nine relating to the book *Treason at Maastricht*, which I wrote with Norris McWhirter, erroneously and regrettably named as my

co-author Norris's twin brother, Ross McWhirter - who was murdered by the IRA some 20 years ago.

RODNEY EB ATKINSON
Newcastle upon Tyne

(as) ... rejecting ... the old right's throwing people at the mercy of change", and three paragraphs later, "In Britain, this Third Way is now being spent out in a massive programme of change."

Might I share my definition of the Third Way? I believe it to be rhetorical rubbish spewed out in the hope that everybody is so bored by it that they omit to spot its endemic contradictions.

DUNCAN ROBERTSON
London N11

They've had it for two days." Depressing. But it got worse.

"Me again," said Tony later that evening. "The BBC has been on the line again. They've decided to make more cuts. It sounds as if Jimmy Boyle has been brought in on the scene and has asked for a full further quarter of an hour to be taken out. So they're dropping the Alan Bennett-John Fortune extract which we put in..."

This was a quite famous dialogue from one of the Secret Policeman's Ball concerts, so mild that Bob Monkhouse - in an anthology of humour - bad broadcast it on BBC radio in the middle of the day, late last year.

"What are they up to?" I asked. "Your guess is as good as mine," said Tony. "They don't give reasons."

Well, my guess is that somebody

panicked and they started cutting and when you start cutting you can't stop. What is so strange about all this is that a lot of what they dropped when they did their editing (and a very bad job they made of it, incidentally leaving loose ends and unidentified speakers) had previously been put out on BBC radio quite safely. It's also very strange that mild stuff like ours was objected to on Radio 4, where the stand-up comedian is now encouraged to get away with anything, where programmes such as the *News Quiz* have become quite filthy, and where dear old Humphrey Lyttelton is allowed to make the most vile double entendres on *I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue*.

What bothers me most, though, is the sheer abandoning of broadcasting standards by Jimmy Boy-

le's men and women. To get a show which YOU have commissioned on a Wednesday morning, and then not to listen to it till Friday, the day before transmission, is sheer incompetence. To decide to censor things your station has previously broadcast is cowardice.

But to inflict YOUR own cuts and changes on someone else's programme without telling the producer, OR the audience, what is going on, breaks all known rules of broadcasting. If you ask a producer to do a show, and then don't like it, you ask him to re-do it. You NEVER, ever, if you are Controller of Radio 4, presume to do it yourself.

Or at least you didn't until the BBC reached its present state.

Next time you bear the BBC denying that it's sliding downhill, remember this story.

Cut! The Beeb gags on green willies and Asian weasels

LAST FRIDAY, I was reading the new *Spectator*, which by an odd chance contained no less than two articles describing how the writer had been tyrannically fired by BBC radio (the admirable Chris Dunkley and the admirable Mark Steyn), when by an even odder chance the phone rang and it was Tony Staveacre on the line. "I've got some bad news," she said. "The BBC doesn't like our programme."

"They're going to cut it." Double Vision is an hour-long Radio 4 conversation, co-presented by myself and Edward Enfield on Saturdays at 10am, produced by Tony Staveacre. We get through a whole hour quite amiably with the help of guests and a few extracts from the BBC sound archives. It's often quite invigorating, especially when the guests take over from

Edward and me. This week we had decided to tackle the subject of sex. "I've had a Radio 4 commissioning editor on the phone," Tony said. "They object to three bits in the show. One when the children recite a nursery rhyme about Kermit's green willy. One when you men talk about vaginas. And the bit about the Asian weasel."

Yes, we had used an extract from an old *Woman's Hour* about juvenile sexual awareness in which several children had recited some mildly smutty rhymes, all of them familiar to me from my own small child and from kid's verse anthologies. Yes, Michelle Hanson, our *Guardian* guest, had quoted the advice of her ante-natal clinic to "make friends with her vagina", and we had briefly discussed possible names to use in this strange con-

versation. But the Asian weasel? Oh, right. This was when another guest, Dr Phil Hammond, had said that you could easily get shocked if you looked for crossword solutions on the Internet.

His parents had recently been stumped by a clue saying "Asian weasel, five letters", and had roamed the Internet for an answer; thus encountering some rather unsavoury and unabashed websites of Oriental prostitutes.

"That's it," I said. "They're going to cut out a reference to Asian weasels? And kid's rhymes? And all talk of vaginas?"

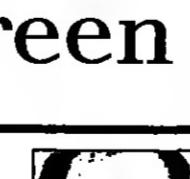
"Not all," he said. "It's all right when Michelle Hanson talks about female bodies. But they don't like it when the talk is man-dominated."

"Hold on," I said. "The programme goes out tomorrow morning."

To decide to censor things your station has previously broadcast is cowardice

She's telling you NOW?" She answered: "Well, they've only just listened to the tape. Don't know why."

Well, my guess is that somebody



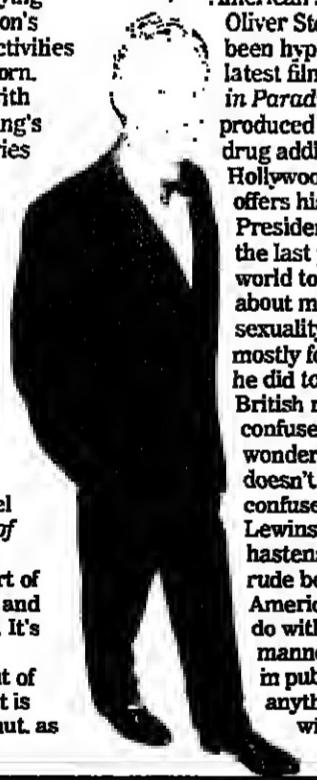
MILES KINGTON
To decide to censor things your station has previously broadcast is cowardice

PANDORA

A QUIZZICAL photo of Peter Mandelson appeared at the end of yesterday's first instalment of Margaret Cook's vitriolic memoirs in *The Sunday Times*. It stood beside a blurb promising next week's revelations about "Peter Mandelson's role in her bitter fight for her home". In fact, unless Mrs Cook has a new bombshell to drop, this is rather old stuff. It has been widely reported that Mandelson served as an "honest broker" between Robin and Margaret after their split, attempting to resolve the twin issues of her financial settlement and the Foreign Secretary's concern about future publicity. In this regard, after making at least two trips up to Scotland to meet with Margaret, Mandy's efforts were said to have satisfied both husband and wife. In retrospect, however, Robin must be having his doubts.

PANDORA HEARS that leaders of London's fashion industry are justifiably outraged at the aggressive behaviour of their New York City counterparts. With the next round of international prêt à porter fashion collections due to begin in mid-February, the organisers of New York's fashion week have decided to usurp London as the first city to show off the twice-annual, month-long frenzy of catwalk displays and late-night parties. Not only has New York decided to go first (instead of its usual final week), before London, Milan and Paris, but the closing day of New York's fashion week takes place on the Friday before London Fashion Week's Saturday morning launch. Indeed, two of New York's most important designers, Calvin Klein and Donna Karan, will hold their shows on that Friday afternoon, thus ensuring that many fashion journalists miss London's opening shows.

ONE OF high-flying Richard Branson's lower-profile activities is publishing porn, most notably with Virgin Publishing's Black Lace series of "erotic novels" aimed at women. Now the Labour MP Stephen Pound has written to Branson on behalf of a constituent who was shocked by a scene in a novel called *Games of Deceit* by Pan Pantziarka, part of Virgin's Crime and Passion series. It's not the highly explicit account of fornication that is objectionable but, as



American star of many an Oliver Stone film has been hyping his own latest film, *Another Day in Paradise*, which he produced and stars in as a drug addict. In customary Hollywood style, Woods offers his verdict on President Clinton: "I'm the last person in the world to be judgmental about morality and sexuality. But I feel mostly for his wife. What he did to her was rude." British readers may be confused by this, wondering if Woods doesn't have Hillary confused with Monica Lewinsky. Pandora hastens to remind that rude behaviour in America has more to do with poor table manners or smoking in public than anything Bill got up to with his cigar.

Found tells Branson, the bit where "the female protagonist whispers to her lover that he doesn't need to use a condom. The partner is relieved as he hadn't brought anything with him". The MP compliments Branson, who used to own Mates, the condom company, on "your restraint in the area of product placement" but beseeches him to send a note to forward to his constituent. Pandora is pleased to have the opportunity to share this example of New Labour's ongoing campaign against sleaze.

IS THE Dorchester Hotel for sale? Owned by the Sultan of Brunei, who poured millions into its glittering refurbishment, the Dorchester is just one of the Sultan's platinum-edged international portfolio of hotel properties, which also includes the Beverly Hills Hotel and the New York Palace. The severe economic crisis in Asia has definitely affected oil-producing Brunei, although the Sultan and two ranking female members of his household were in a jolly enough mood when they joined the Queen for tea at Buckingham Palace on 9 December. Recently, the Brunei Investment Agency (BIA) sold off its stake in a major Australian investment bank for £76m. Now the *New York Post* is claiming that the Sultan "has a 'for sale' tag on most of the assets he collected during a three-decade spending spree". At least there's some good news in the tiny Pacific kingdom this week: the Sultan's estranged brother, Prince Jefri, who used to head the BIA, just had the "white slavery" suit brought against him by a former Miss USA thrown out of federal court in California.

ACTOR JAMES Woods (pictured), the hip, fast-talking, pock-marked

American star of many an Oliver Stone film has been hyping his own latest film, *Another Day in Paradise*, which he produced and stars in as a drug addict. In customary Hollywood style, Woods offers his verdict on President Clinton: "I'm the last person in the world to be judgmental about morality and sexuality. But I feel mostly for his wife. What he did to her was rude." British readers may be confused by this, wondering if Woods doesn't have Hillary confused with Monica Lewinsky. Pandora hastens to remind that rude behaviour in America has more to do with poor table manners or smoking in public than anything Bill got up to with his cigar.

AS THE United States enters yet another potentially decisive and - yes - historic week, some already burgeoning myths need to be scotched and cast.

What happened in Washington last week was not the success of ceremonial and constitutional triumphs it was cracked up to be; it was little short of a shambles. And one culprit was that revered document, the US constitution.

Americans seem confident, even now, that all is for the best in theirs, the best of all possible worlds. Their President may have been impeached, but the trial he faces will be "civil and fair".

The spirit of "bipartisanship", which regrettably left the House of Representatives before last month's impeachment vote, has re-aligned to joyous acclaim in the Senate. Above all, the constitution, long a model for aspiring democracies, was vindicated. How wise were the framers that their words endured to this momentous hour!

The truth is rather different. The rituals that ushered in President Clinton's impeachment trial were not a dignified and awesome



MARY DEJEVSKY

A matter for resignation has been turned into a politicised lawsuit with twisted definitions

spectacle, but an inelegant mélange of past and present, 18th-century formal and millennial casual. They were deficient in form and still emptier of content.

The symbolic walk from the House to the Senate by the 12 representatives-turned-prosecutors was an untidy progression of lounge-suited men who could have been going out on the golf course.

There was none of the formal dignity that imbues the state opening of the British Parliament - the ceremony with which television commentators repeatedly compared it.

When the begrimed Chief Justice arrived in the Senate chamber for the first time in 130 years, he was greeted with the words "Pleased to welcome you," as though he was coming to cocktails, before swearing his antique oath. And when the Senators lined up to sign the "oath book" they looked, according to one US reporter from the provinces, as though they were queuing up to buy lottery tickets.

There was even a misprint on the commemorative pens, whose inscription read "the United [sic] States Senate". It did not take the titbit that the Chief Justice had styled his gown after a costume in *Iolanthe* to show up the proceedings as a sham.

Yet the progress of President Clinton's impeachment, far from vindicating the constitution, casts serious doubt on whether a 200-year-old document, however sage and far-sighted its authors, is a useful basis for challenging a president on the

eve of the year 2000. The knots that the legislature has tied itself into so far only hint at the contortions ahead. Among the delights will be renewed debate on the meaning of "high crimes and misdemeanours"; a partisan battle over televising of the trial, and disagreement about the line between private and public morality.

As far as a constitution drawn up in 1787 has been more of a hindrance than a help. Once the formalities of last week's trial opening were over, the Senate was completely stumped as to what to do next. Its paralysis would have engulfed the country in a vast constitutional crisis - if only the country had cared. The 100 sticklers for "bipartisanship" broke the deadlock only by dint of improvisation (an informal meeting in camera); even then, they merely deferred the nub of contention: calling or not of witnesses.

The rigidity of the written constitution which prescribes only legalistic remedies for legalistic complaints has obscured the ethics involved and prolonged Mr Clinton's fight. A matter for resignation (over dual standards in public life and mis-

Be afraid. The bears haven't gone away, they're just hiding



ANDREAS WHITTAM SMITH

The dollar is weak. If the Japanese begin to repatriate their funds, Wall Street will collapse

from 35 years of following financial markets - caution. I wrote that the tempest in financial markets was like a storm well out to sea. It was heading our way. But nobody could say whether it would largely blow itself out before it touched our lives, or whether it would still be raging fiercely. The main precaution one could take was to prepare one's mind for what may come.

In the event, it did blow itself out. Calm returned. The sun is again shining on investors. Nonetheless I still feel uneasy as I pace the floor line. Immediately before the Great Crash of 1929, life appeared normal, untroubled: few had an inkling of what was to come.

In relation to the stockmarket, my mind is in the same state as those seismologists who study the risk of earthquakes in great urban centres such as California or around Tokyo. All the precedents, the instrument readings and the minor tremors suggest that something big and disagreeable is about to happen, but for years, thank goodness, nothing does.

I have three concerns. The first is the American economy. It has been expanding continually for 93 months. It's the longest peace time run ever recorded. Only one factor appears to keep it going - the stockmarket itself.

The effect works like this. A much higher proportion of Americans are invested in the stockmarket directly or indirectly, than is the case anywhere else. As a result, when the stockmarket goes up, consumers feel richer and they borrow more and they spend more. Activity increases, and this in turn has a good impact upon investor sentiment.

Wall Street rises again, and so the cycle repeats itself.

This was perfectly illustrated on Friday: Wall Street prices hit a new, all-time peak on the same day that



Dealers at the New York stock exchange

AP

have made good American deficits by buying huge amounts of US Treasury Securities. By doing so, they have obtained a good return, and they have also benefited from the strength of the dollar.

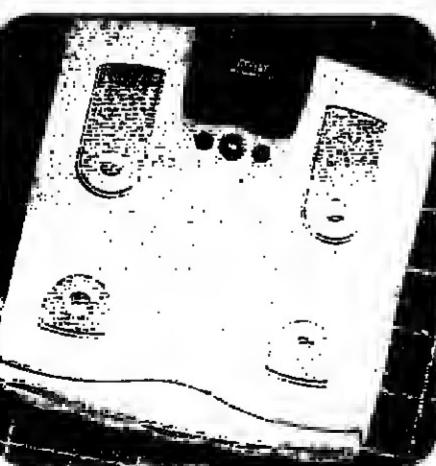
But recently this equation has changed its terms. Yields on US Treasury securities have fallen and the dollar is weak. If the Japanese begin to repatriate their funds, Wall Street would collapse.

And my third concern is what readers might recognise as my pet nightmare - that deflation returns for the first time since the 1930s. This is not yet mainstream thinking. But, in a sense, it is already happening. It was announced last week that prices charged by British manufacturers for finished goods fell over the 12 months to November by 0.5 per cent, the sharpest slide since records began in 1958.

Yes, I will have to admit it. I remain pessimistic about stockmarkets and the economic outlook. The Great Bear growled and paced around last October, and then went away. I think the animal will return.

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DON 14

Autism - a different way of thinking

AUTISM IS a devastating disorder of social and communicative development, affecting at least one in a thousand children and adults.

In recent years, there have been considerable advances in understanding the nature of these social difficulties, which appear to spring from a failure to represent thoughts and feelings - sometimes called "mind-blindness". What "mind-blindness", and indeed all deficit accounts of autism, fails to explain is why people with autism are often so unusually good at certain things. Take, for example, the young man with autism who draws like a master although unable to fasten his coat or add five and five. Or the girl with autism who has perfect pitch and can play any tune by ear after only one hearing. Or the boy with autism who can tell you, within seconds, what day of the week any past or future date will fall upon. Or, less spectacularly but more commonly, the child who can construct jigsaw puzzles at lightning speed, even picture-side down, or the adult who, despite generally low ability,

recalls the exact date and time of your last visit, perhaps 20 years ago. How can we explain these abilities?

There are at least two possible interpretations of such superior performance. The first is that these individuals are actually of high intelligence, and that these "islets of ability" actually reflect the true intelligence level - which must be underestimated, in that case, by standard assessments. It is possible that children with autism score so poorly on standard IQ assessments because social insight is crucial both developmentally and online in IQ tests. In other words, we acquire knowledge and skills primarily through interaction with other people - and even IQ assessments involve some degree of "mind-reading".

Alternatively, the surprising skills in individuals with autism may reflect the workings of a very different sort of mind - a different information-processing style. Take, for example, the finding that perfect pitch is very common in even musically naive children with autism.

It has been suggested that perfect pitch is relatively easy

for normal children to acquire before the age of six years or so, when a shift occurs from processing features (notes) to processing relations among features (melody). Might people with autism retain a feature-based, rather than global, processing style throughout their lives?

There is now good evidence for a detail-focused processing style in autism. This has been referred to as "weak central coherence". Central coherence is the term for the normal tendency to process information in context for meaning, to integrate information to get the "big picture", usually at the expense of the parts. For example, after hearing this you will hopefully remember the gist but will probably forget the actual words. People with autism often do the opposite - recall the exact words but fail to get the meaning!

Children and adults with autism show weak central coherence or detail-focused processing at a number of different levels. At the perceptual level, for example, people with autism often do the opposite - recall the exact words but fail to get the meaning!

Processing, or weak coherence, appears to be a cognitive style not a deficit, associated with advantages as well as disadvantages.

This is reinforced by findings from an ongoing study of the relatives of children with autism. Autism has a strong genetic component, but it is not as yet clear which genes are involved, nor what traits they might affect in non-autistic individuals who carry them. Our study focuses on skills and assets that might characterise the relatives of those with autism. In particular, it seems that many fathers of boys with autism also show weak central coherence, mirroring their sons' performance assets and deficits despite high IQ and achievement. Many of these fathers excel in professions where the ability to focus on details helps, such as science, engineering or computing.

The challenge for the future is to uncover the cognitive and brain mechanism of coherence and to better understand autism. In the meantime, recognition of the many things that people with autism are good at will be a very positive step.



PODIUM

FRANCESCA HAPPE
From the Spearman Medal Lecture given to the British Psychological Society by the psychiatric researcher

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NHS winter warning
Sick and tired of waiting
The current crisis in the NHS
is the result of years of underfunding
and poor management.
It's time for a fundamental change.
Join us in demanding
a sustainable future for the NHS.
For more information, visit
www.nhsnow.org.uk

Zorro, Sophie and Des



JOHN WALSH
*It now looks like
Desmond Lynam won't
get to be the new Poet
Laureate, after all*

HOW CAN they be so disobliging? Twice in quick succession, heroic British public figures have been let down by the unhelpful revelations of ungrateful foreigners.

Last week, the lovely Mrs Margaret Cook revealed in a tantalising morsel from her autobiography, *A Slight and Delicate Creature*, that she'd had it off with a 38-year-old tour guide called Carlos Renade in an exciting-sounding territory called the Rio Legarto Cocha on the border of Ecuador and Peru. Very liberating, she described it, as well as "transforming of outlook – and inlook – and of expectations for the rest of my life".

Mrs Cook's natural capacity to talk like a fourth-rate agony aunt did not, apparently, dampen the enthusiasm of her swarthy beau on the Rio Legarto; and they were, she said, "an item" for a fortnight. No we weren't, said the horrible Carlos when *The Mail on Sunday* caught up with him: "I was her doctor, psychologist and psychiatrist rolled into one. Any romance was all in her head". The Spanish.

And now up pops a Danish dentist called Hans to put a spoke in the Prime Minister's wheel. Hans Joergensen was the chap whom Mr Blair rescued from drowning last week. The way that we heard about it first, Hans had been in trouble half a mile out from shore in a tropical force nine when he was spotted by Mr Blair.

Careless of risk to life, limb and the British economy, the PM had dashed into the waves, carrying one of those little red bags all the life-guards are issued on *Baywatch*, driven through the crashing breakers like a torpedo, grabbed the stricken orthodontist and ferried him back to shore while simultaneously fighting off a Portuguese man-of-war jellyfish and outpacifying a contingent of armed-to-the-teeth Filipino pirates, applied mouth-to-mouth resuscitation on the beach surrounded by swooning and appreciative Seychellian lovelies in ruched bathing costumes, performed a dazzling Hickman manoeuvre upon the supine Scandinavian, fed him a reviving broth of his own devising and, while the waterlogged dentist gradually revived, entertained the crowd with card tricks and demonstrations of swordplay in the style of *The Mask*.



A remarkable display of dormant sexuality: Prince Edward and Sophie Rhys-Jones announce their engagement

Tom Melville/PA

of Zorro. Now that, we all agreed, is a Prime Minister worth voting for.

Later we heard that it wasn't exactly like that. Blair and the captain of his boat had set off in a dinghy to get better reception for his mobile phone (a likely story), had seen Joergensen signalling to them, 500 yards offshore, and, assuming that he was trouble, had hauled him in. A lesser tale, but still, it was a nice thing to do.

Now the Viking ingrate claims he was merely waving, not drowning, and that it was "absurd and ridiculous" to suggest Blair had saved his life. He had, he said, just been hitching a ride. He was never in trouble at all.

Mr Joergensen's response reminds me of the reply given by a Polish count I once knew, when, after a morning's fox-hunting, we all met in a Galway pub to lick our wounds, and, surveying the aristocratic jodhpured frame, which was covered, indeed drenched and saturated, with mud from head to toe, we asked at what point he'd fallen off his horse.

"I didn't fall off," he said with dignity. "I got off." But doesn't it seem rather aptly New Labour that the PM should be floating around in an unseaworthy craft, mobile phone

clamped to his ear, spot a chap enjoying himself, do his damndest to get him "on board", offer gratuitous interventions upon his privacy and then take credit, later on, for saving his life?

SOPHIE RHYS-JONES has apparently "begged" the Queen not to make her a princess, for fear of having to endure slighting comparisons with the late Princess of Wales.

It's a little on the late side for that, of course – her hairstyle, her strawberry-blondeness, her fashion sense and her, how shall I put this, child-bearing hindquarters, have all suffered already from the light cast by the Spencer madonna – but you have to admire such an impulse. It makes you wonder if she begged Prince Edward not to propose to her for five years.

Looking at the photographs of the happily affianced pair last week, especially the gleam of Ms Rhys-Jones' bare teeth as the Prince bestows on her possibly the most grudging and insincere kiss since the one in the Garden of Gethsemane, you can almost hear them begging each other not to make too much of it. Go easy on the passion, old girl. Whoa there, tiger. Steady

the huffs, old thing. It was a remarkable display of dormant sexuality, all that "We're the best of friends" routine, a kind of ground-level commitment to mateness and teamwork but not to any un-British surges of blood and readings of underwear.

One, I said, if we can do an interview with the Famous Person who's headlining the event.

No, she said, can't you just run

a piece about the good cause?

"Fraid not," I said, "for it has no top-

spin upon it." "Really," she said with a little asperity. "Why do you journalists have to be so cynical?"

You can understand if, course. Poor Prince Edward has suffered over the years from hints that he may not be As Other Men, has for too long been unfeeling christened "Dockyard Doris" by spiteful theatricals, despite his record of passionate nocturnal creepings along Buck House corridors at three in the morning.

Poor Sophie has suffered from investigations into her "fun-loving" past, in which the kind of behaviour redolent of a normal, healthy, middle-class hoyden in her twenties is held up as rather shocking. The only thing shocking about the "I Shagged Sophie in a Potting Shed" story published in the *Sunday People* yesterday was that she could have forgotten herself with such a boot.

When I met her, five years ago and only on the phone, she was sweet and pleasant and in full PR mode. She was promoting a charity, I was editing a magazine and she wanted some coverage.

Now THAT Derek Walcott is odds-on favourite to become Poet Laureate, it looks like Des Lynam won't get it after all. Mr Lynam's name was included on the list of Laureate possibilities monitored by William Hill over the last few weeks because of the moving way he read out Kipling's "If" at the end of the BBC's Paris-based coverage of the

World Cup last summer. We assumed his 100-1 outsider status was a kind of joke; but how wrong can you be?

A new CD is about to appear in the shops, in which Mr Lynam recites a couple of dozen favourite poems from Betjeman, Auden and Roger McGough – and puts in one of his own. Introducing the selection, he modestly suggests that its inclusion might cast doubt on the sanity of his BBC producer; but I don't think so.

The single extant published work by Desmond Lynam, poet, is called "The Silly Isles". It is a withering indictment of the Falklands war. I can't quote it all here, but it begins, "Politicians without their guile/ Army hawks without a smile/ Did send out men eight thousand miles/ to claim some rocks..." includes a brief history of Britain's claim to the islands and concludes: "But when the Exocets are fired/ When men are dead and others tired/ Those sad grey rocks won't have cost/ A lot." There now.

This is a fine example of just the kind of public verse to which the Poet Laureate is supposed to aspire. Is it too late for the Prime Minister and the Royal Society of Literature to reconsider?

RIGHT OF REPLY

VALERIE PASSMORE

A woman who has never used it responds to Deborah Orr's recent praise for the Pill

DEBORAH ORR makes the astounding claim ("The myth of sexual freedom", 8 January) that the contraceptive pill is the single most important invention of the 20th century. What? More important than, say, flight, antibiotics, tampons, computers, sliced bread, plastics, nuclear fission?

It has become an unquestioned cliché that the Pill arrived in the 1960s and changed the world. As one of the four fifths of the fertile female population of this country who don't use this form of contraception I find the claim risible.

Is it Deborah Orr's impression that before the 1960s women were either celibate or producing dozens of children? The decline in fertility and women's sexual liberation has infinitely more complex economic and social causes than the mechanics of one form of contraception.

To state baldly, with no supporting argument or fact, that this marginal birth control device triggered "sexual liberation, then feminism and now the remaking of our ideas about family structure in the West" is a breathtaking claim. Isn't she aware of Marie Stopes' long (pre-Pill) pioneering work in birth control?

Ms Orr actually states that birth control in its entirety is an invention of this century. But, of course, people have been trying to limit their fertility for millennia: the ancient Egyptians are known to have used contraception, and Casanova recommended half a lemon used as a diaphragm. The condom has been used almost universally.

Yet another sweeping statement of the author is that with the Pill "all responsibility for contraception was dumped into the arms of women".

Who does she suppose was previously responsible for using the diaphragm or Dutch cap and the douche; and attempts at procuring early miscarriages with hot baths, gin, slippery elm and other folk remedies passed down through the ages for ending unwanted pregnancies?

Frankly, the invention of the automatic pet-feeder has had a more liberating effect on my life than the Pill ever did.

Theory of turntable toiling



MONDAY BOOK

DJ CULTURE

BY ULF POSCHARDT, TRANSLATED BY SHAWN WHITESIDE. QUARTET. £13

doubt come as news to Pete Tong or Jimmy Savile, but there is no reason why the labours of those who toil behind turntables should not be subject to the orthogonal illumination.

Initially, the omens are not good. "DJ Culture", the Pet Shop Boys song which gives the book its title, seemed an uncharacteristically after-the-fact notion for that sharp-eyed duo even when it first came out in 1991. And Poschardt begins by describing the gramophone as "the

instrument with which the DJ would one day bring about a revolution in pop music", which would seem to be putting the cart somewhat before the horse.

Yet from these rather unpromising beginnings, *DJ Culture* expands in all directions. A big, crazy book – in the best sense of the latter adjective – it progresses masterfully from the beginnings of pop radio (in a show with the marvellous title "The world's largest make-believe ballroom") through the DJ as literary device (Mucho Maas, the enigmatic turntable overlord in Thomas Pynchon's *The Crying of Lot 49*, Icons especially large) to the early days of hip-hop and Acid House's end-of-the-millennium charleston.

The disjunction between Poschardt's academic language and the fragments of jive talk and rap lyric which crop up throughout the text is consistently intriguing – partly because distance lends enchantment, and it is fascinating to see this history viewed through a non-English filter; and partly because the change of perspective frees the author from the tyranny of received opinions.

In fact, it does not so much free him from those opinions as allow him to broadcast them simultaneously. Just as you are starting to be struck by the way his book reconciles contradictory sources – say, quotations from Engels and an i-D magazine history of the Eighties – by giving them equal weight, Poschardt explains why he is doing it. Just as the DJ uses two bits of reproductive technology in order to make a new sound, so he wants to blend contrasting strands of thought into an appealing multi-coloured thread.

"Interlinked and mixed together...

fragmented and mixed to the point of unintelligibility", his brutally recontextualised raw materials will, he hopes, have the power to "generate new intelligibility".

Poschardt's new intelligibility sometimes takes a hit of digesting, but the weighty dough of his prose is leavened with a potent yeast of arresting one-liners ("Pop culture is a bastard"; "DJs tend towards faconic autism"; "Writing history is always also a terrorist act"). He also knows the value of a fact. Alongside the revelation that hip-hop pioneer Grandmaster Flash was a trained electrician, the disturbing reality that "almost one in every three young people in Germany has had their hearing damaged between 2 and 6 kilohertz" will live long in the memory.

In the end, this book achieves a rare balance of political and cultural engagement – a brave and heartening response to a peculiarly German shame. The pernicious snobberies of the Frankfurt school – those grumpy killjoys like "Grand Wizard" Theodor Adorno – are laid to rest for good here. The rickety mansion of the cultural-studies industry has rested for too long on foundations riddled with the dry rot of intellectual contempt. Poschardt insists evangelically that "Adorno and Tate" (Greg Tate, the great black American cultural theorist) "must fertilise one another by communicating and ceasing to ebb alone".

Only rarely does Poschardt's confidence in "how infinitely strong, powerful and clever" his DJ culture is seem misplaced. His vision of Sir Mixalot's early Nineties exploitation smash, "Baby Got Back", as "rescuing the figures of black women from the diet-based terror of white women's magazines" will be more persuasive to those who have not seen the video. Or to those who respect Benny Hill's heroic struggle to free women's lingerie from the tyranny of the Freemans catalogue.

BEN THOMPSON

MONDAY POEM

A SHORT FILM BY TED HUGHES

It was not meant to hurt.
It had been made for happy remembering
By people who were still too young
To have learned about memory.

Now it is a dangerous weapon, a time-bomb,
Which is kind of body-bomb, long-term, too.
Only film, a few frames of you skipping, a few seconds,
You aged about ten there, skipping and still skipping.

Not very clear grey, made out of mist and smudge,
This thing has a fine fuse, less a fuse
Than a wavelength attuned, an electronic detonator
To what lies in your grave inside us.

And how that explosion would hurt
Is not just an idea of horror but a flash of fine sweat
Over the skin-surface, a bracing of nerves
For something that has already happened.

Ted Hughes's *Birthday Letters* (Faber, £14.99) is shortlisted for both the T S Eliot Prize, announced today, and the Whitbread Poetry Award, announced tomorrow

If a 320km cycle ride
doesn't leave you breathless,



the sight of a whale in the wild
just might!

Leave thoughts of England behind and join a team of 50 cyclists in a 320km tour around some of the most beautiful scenery in Iceland to raise funds for the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society.

Recover with a spectacular whale watching trip in one of the best spots to see whales in the world.

Photo: Duncan Thomas

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- 1 day whale watching

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Please send me an information pack.

Name _____

Address _____

Sebastian Haffner

SEBASTIAN HAFFNER was well known in German journalistic circles for over 60 years. He became known to British readers through his first book, *Germany: Jekyll and Hyde*, published by Secker and Warburg in 1940, the overt purpose of which was to explain Germany to the British.

Born Raimund Pretzel in Berlin in 1907, he studied law while working for the German press in the late 1920s and early 1930s. Because of his democratic beliefs and Jewish friend (and later wife), he had his share of difficulties with the Nazis. He left Germany for Britain, where he persevered in gaining the necessary language skills to continue his career.

Fear of Nazi retribution against his relatives in Germany caused him to change his name to Sebastian Haffner. And it was under this name that he became familiar to British newspaper readers. During the war, he worked for the Foreign Office on anti-Nazi propaganda. For many years he was associated with *The Observer* and he returned to Berlin in 1954 as that paper's correspondent. He later wrote for a variety of German publications like *Stern*, *Die Welt* and *Süddeutsche Zeitung*.

Many members of the literary and journalistic emigration chose not to go back to West Germany. Some, like

Bertolt Brecht, Ludwig Renn, Anna Seghers and the still active Stefan Heym, opted for the "anti-Fascist" German Democratic Republic. Others, like Stefan Lorant, founder of *Pictorial Post*, and most of the Hollywood émigrés, decided to stay in the United States or Britain. Returning was a brave step for Haffner to take.

There was the massive psychological problem of going back to a country in ruins both physically and spiritually. There was still much hostility to returning émigrés. In private one could hear the view that, although Hitler had gone too far, the Jews had brought it on themselves by being too "pushy". Returning émigrés were feared as rivals for jobs. Some regarded them simply as agents for the occupying powers who were inflicting, once again, unfair burdens on the Germans to prevent them succeeding too well economically. Literary émigrés were regarded as part of a process of thought control to make the Germans feel guilty and therefore amenable to the measures imposed upon them by the victors.

Haffner did not fit into any stereotype. He was difficult to pigeonhole. He was a genuine seeker after truth. Obviously he did worry about where divided Germany was going. Despite



the economic "miracle" of the 1950s there was much to worry about.

The so-called *Spiegel* affair of 1962 shocked opinion in Germany and abroad. Rudolf Augustin, the owner-editor of the prestigious and popular weekly *Der Spiegel*, was arrested as was the magazine's defence correspondent Conrad Ahlers. Using the public interest argument *Spiegel* had published classified Nato material claiming West Germany was not properly equipped to defend itself and revealing the massive casualties Germany (and Britain) would suffer in case of a conflict. Controversy surrounded the question of who had or-

dered the arrests, as the relevant Minister of Justice, Wolfgang Stammberger, had not. Stammberger subsequently resigned in protest.

Although he denied it, Franz Josef Strauss, the Defence Minister, had personally ordered the arrest of Ahlers, who was taken while on holiday in Spain. There were widespread protests in Germany and abroad. This was the time of the Cuban missile crisis, when fear of nuclear war was very real. Haffner wrote, "The question is whether the Federal Republic of Germany is still a free and constitutional democracy or whether it has become pos-

sible to transform it overnight by some sort of coup d'état based on fear and arbitrary power." He feared the federal system of West Germany was being undermined. Happily he was wrong. His views were echoed in other papers and Strauss was forced out of office. Augustin and Ahlers continued their successful careers.

Another scandal broke in 1968. This involved a number of suicides by individuals in the military or civil service. On 8 October 1968 Maj-Gen Horst Wendland, deputy head of the Federal Intelligence Service (BND), shot himself. On the same day Admiral Hermann Lüdke, deputy head of logistics at Nato, killed himself. Four other similar deaths occurred in the same month. At the same time a group of seven scientists and engineers disappeared, only to re-emerge in Communist East Germany. The authorities passed off the incidents as unrelated.

Most people were clear that the West Germans had a massive security problem. Writing in the *New Statesman* Haffner agreed that they had. He was quick to point out, however, that others had too. "But what about Blake and Philby? What about Wennerstroem and Penkowski (Swedish and Soviet defectors respectively)? It is safe to assume

nowadays that there are undetectable highly placed spies in every defence organisation in the world."

Haffner long regarded himself as a "Prussian with a British passport".

He identified with Prussia and its achievements: general compulsory schooling (1717), the abolition of torture (1740), the establishment of religious toleration (1740), Bismarck's welfare state (1883), the medical giants Virchow, Koch, von Behring, the intellectual giants Kant, von Humboldt and von Schlegel and much more. At the end of his book he recounted the (often ignored) expulsion of millions of Prussians from their homeland in 1945. "It was an atrocity, the final atrocity of a war which had more than its share in atrocities, admittedly begun by Germany under Hitler." His message is very relevant today, when he praises those expelled for rejecting revenge and having the courage to say, "This is enough".

Haffner's last book, *From Bismarck to Hitler*, appeared in 1987.

DAVID CHILDS

Raimund Pretzel (Sebastian Haffner), writer and journalist; born Berlin 27 December 1907; married (one son, one daughter); died Berlin 2 January 1998.

James Hammerstein



Discussing various actors with whom he had once worked, he said he sometimes wished he had got deaf younger

Mostly, though, he showed his pride and pleasure in it, travelling about the world overseeing productions of his father's musicals, and receiving awards on their behalf, with a laconic and beguiling grace.

Still, he was blessed in his work, and, more importantly, blessed in his wife and children, becoming even husier and feeling even more blessed after he discovered a few years ago that he had a heart condition. Although he found his increasing deafness a great nuisance, he did say, when discussing various actors with whom he had once worked, that he sometimes wished he had deaf younger.

James Hammerstein achieved as much as anyone can reasonably hope to achieve in the theatre – more in fact; nevertheless, he had to bear an unusual burden, the burden of inheritance. He was the son of a genius and had a great name, almost a title. For all the independence he won for himself, he always assumed that what he had been given also entailed a debt. It must sometimes have been hard, even for such an honourable and dutiful son, to have to devote so much of himself to being a custodian (his father died in 1960).

and unfairly handsome, he reminded one of long-gone film stars – a beau idéal, American style. Inevitably women found him sexy and sympathetic; men liked and admired him in spite of that.

He had only one truly irritating characteristic. When playing tennis or ping-pong, he had a habit of complimenting his opponent on a shot, even as he was returning it unplayably. I remember one game, from about a quarter of a century ago, when I was so tormented by his lethal combination of good manners and swift reflexes, that I met his conclusive "Hey, good shot, Sir!" with a volley of oaths. He was a jolly good winner and I was a rotten loser; but then I have no idea what he could have been like as a loser, which isn't fair of course. There was only my own social disgrace in losing to him – he was the most complete sportsman I've ever come across.

As a young man he played tennis to a professional level (when living in London he played at Queen's, and had represented the club in tournaments), and as an older one he was good enough to mix it with veteran champions. He was a marvellous swimmer and diver, and in these last years took up golf as well.

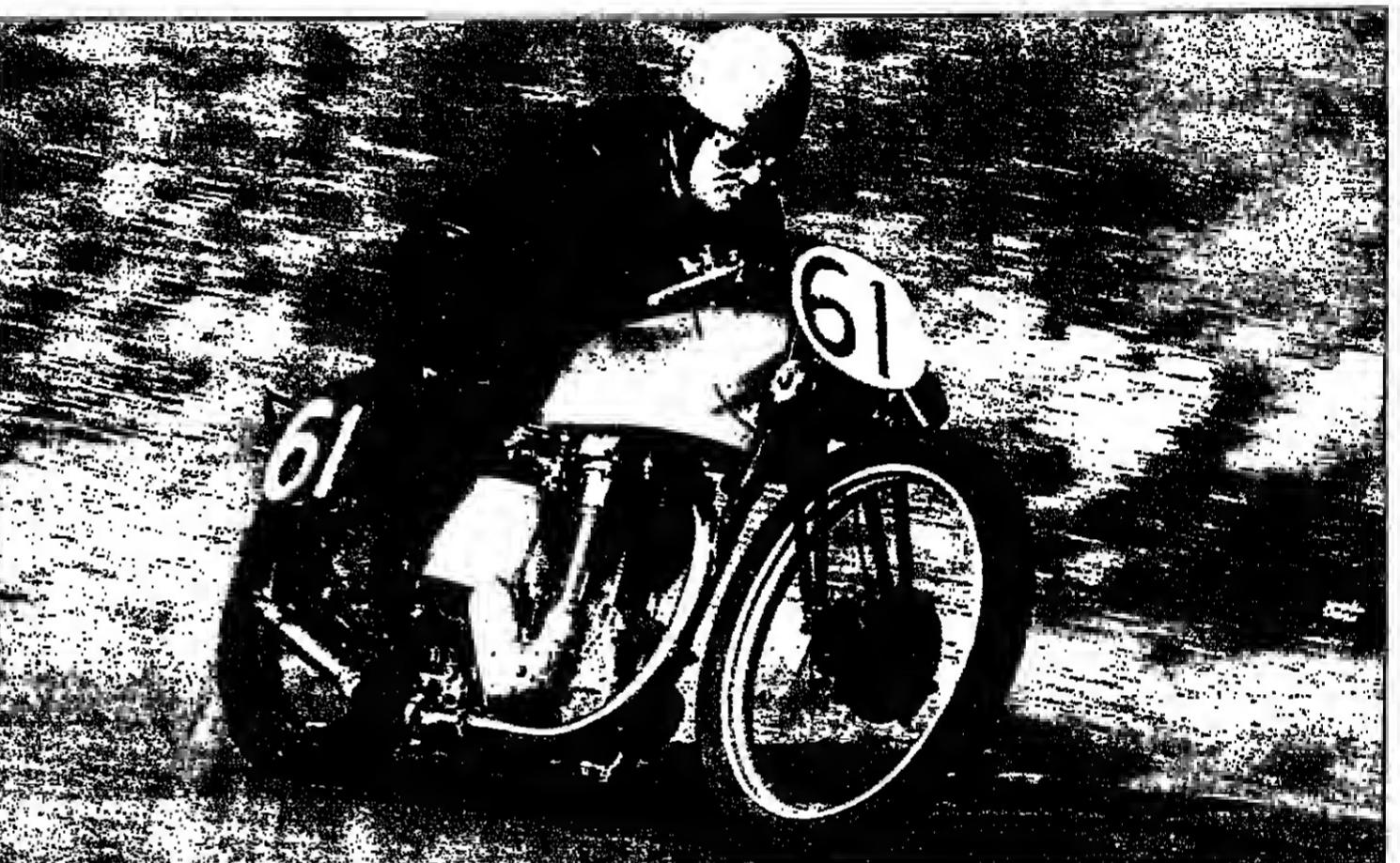
Hammerstein, like many of us, I think, was most himself at play, and I know that my most vivid memories are of him in movement – in the water, on the tennis court, dealing cards, simultaneously concentrating and relaxed, full of enjoyment.

He died in the arms of his beloved Dena, with their beloved son Simon close by, after celebrating the 100th performance of one of his current off-Broadway successes, *Over the River and Through the Woods*. A decent enough way to go, at least so everyone says, but too soon, indecently soon, for those many who loved him. James Hammerstein, such a son to his father, and such a father to his children, has made quite a few perfectly orphaned all over again.

"Wow!" he'd probably say, with his sudden boy's grin. "Hey, guys, I didn't mean it to be like that, I really didn't!"

SIMON GRAY

James Hammerstein, theatre director and producer; born New York 23 March 1931; married three times (three sons, one daughter); died New York 7 January 1999.



Heath made his racing debut in 1934 in a Morgan three-wheeler and turned professional in 1949

Phil Heath

ONE OF THE final links with 1930s racing at Donington Park in Leicestershire was broken with the death of Phil Heath. Today Donington is the established host to the British Motorcycle Grand Prix; Heath knew it as a paddock racecourse in more carefree days and in recent times was an organiser in classic racing.

He was born in 1915, the son of a Leicester insurance agent; he was educated at Oakham School and teamed with a friend he met there to make his racing debut in 1934. It was in a Morgan three-wheeler, previously used by Robin Jackson to win a 100mph Gold Star at Brooklands in Surrey and the novices found it a very powerful handful. "We touched the grass verge on both sides going down the straight," Rob Buxton remembers. "We turned it over once but weren't hurt, and then we did get a third place in one race."

A member of the Officer Training Corps at Oakham, Heath was an early volunteer in the Second World War and served with the Royal Artillery in Egypt. Inevitably a motorcycle came into his life, but the old AJS he bought in Cairo and painted khaki before riding it back to camp at Mersa Matru had to be left behind when the battery moved on.

In the early post-war years he was a noted rider, with second place in the 1948 1,000cc Clubmans TT riding a Vincent HRD. That same year he was runner-up in the 350cc Manx Grand Prix and, with that level of success behind him, turned professional in 1949.

For two years he and his old partner Rob Buxton spent the summer months driving across Europe in an ex-RAF Ford van, carrying Heath's two solo racing machines and Buxton's 1932 Norton sidecar outfit from one race meeting to another. Living quarters were a tent. Heath's equipment his old army issue. He was also sending freelance reports back to England, and his description of the 1949 season in Geoff

Davison's *The Racing Year* (1950) remains one of the most evocative accounts of racing in that period.

This nomadic life was a good learning ground, both in riding skills and in negotiating start-money with race promoters. At their first race the body of the ageing sidecar collapsed and Heath had to perch on the chassis tubes to stay aboard, but the veteran Norton earned its keep.

"It was our start-money goldmine," Buxton explains. "We could get as much as £50 for starting with the sidecar – the European organisers loved it."

Heath met his wife, Annette, then a young journalist, at a Belgian race meeting. They married in 1953 and he carried on the perilous life of a professional racer, Annette riding her little FN machine to fetch and carry spares. When Heath retired from full-time racing, he worked as a sales representative for the Excelsior Company of Birmingham and later sold advertising for the emer-

gent newspaper *Motor Cycle News*.

He never retired officially, dividing his time between freelance writing, selling the spares that filled the extensive glasshouses in the grounds of the family home in Leicestershire, and running the library service for the Vintage Motor Cycle Club, of which he was a founder member. When Donington Park circuit was reopened in 1977, he was part of the celebratory parade, as one of the oldest original competitors from the original circuit.

He was due to spend time on research work in the Vintage Club's headquarters in Burton-on-Trent on Christmas Eve, and spent the night with a friend at what he called his "halfway house" stop in Ilstock, but on 24 December he did not wake up.

JIM REYNOLDS

Frank Philip Heath, motorcycle racer; born 18 January 1915; married (one daughter); died Ilstock, Leicestershire 23 December 1998.

Dr Louis Jolyon West

appointed witness in the defence of Patricia Hearst after her kidnapping. West, along with four other empannelled psychiatrists, found she was sane and able to stand trial but "psychologically damaged as a result of torture". They recommended she be treated before the trial, a recommendation ignored by the court.

His study into sleep deprivation in the 1950s became a national event when West convinced a disc jockey Peter Tripp, to broadcast live for 200 hours without stopping. The DJ suffered temporary physical and mental illness in the process.

In another prominent study, also in the 1950s, West was appointed to a panel to discover why 36 US airmen captured in Korea confessed or co-operated in charges of war crimes against the United States. Some called the airmen cowards, others raised the fear that the Communists had found drugs or mysterious methods to induce "brainwashing". West, through interviews with the

servicemen, offered a simpler explanation: "What we found enabled us to rule out drugs, hypnosis or other mysterious trickery," he said. "It was just one device used to confuse, bewilder and torment our men until they were ready to confess to anything. That device was prolonged, chronic loss of sleep."

The study concluded that sleep deprivation, combined with the fear of harm and total dependence on their captors, had led the airmen into starting and long-lasting personality changes. West's work saved the airmen from court-martial and expanded the findings to uncover the vulnerability of people in general, and particularly children. He argued that children may become violent when exposed to coercion and violence within their families, and was one of the first to demonstrate that inflicting painful punishment was not a part of good child-rearing.



Studies of sleep deprivation

His belief in that principle led him to study the Tarahumara of the Sierra Madre in south-western Chihuahua, Mexico. In a paper he described how they held non-violence as one of the highest principles of

their society and never physically punished their children. The result, he said, was that the Tarahumara children grew up without learning expressions of anger or rage, and violent crimes were almost unknown amongst the tribe.

West's belief in non-violence would lead him into confrontation in the early 1970s when he proposed the establishment of a centre to be the "world's first and only centre for the study of interpersonal violence". However, his proposal included descriptions of human experiments, including psychosurgery to alter behaviour. The plan drew vehement protest, despite support from the then Governor of California, Ronald Reagan, failed.

Louis Jolyon West was born in Brooklyn, New York, to a Ukrainian immigrant and a Brooklyn piano teacher. He received his medical degree from the University of Minnesota and did his psychiatric residency at New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center. At the age of 29 he became chairman of the psychiatry department at the University of Oklahoma School of Medicine, where he remained until 1968, when he became chairman of psychiatry and head of the Neuropsychiatric Institute at the University of California at Los Angeles.

West retired in 1989 but remained a prominent and popular figure in psychiatry. In 1997, he was sought out to give his insight on cults when the Heaven's Gate cult staged a mass suicide in San Diego to join, as they saw it, their saviours following in the tail of a passing asteroid.

EDWARD HELMORE

Louis Jolyon West, psychiatrist; born New York 6 October 1924; married (one son, two daughters); died Los Angeles 2 January 1999.

LOUIS JOLYON WEST devoted his professional enquiries into the outer reaches of human experience. Over the course of his career as a leading US psychiatrist and cult expert, he examined "brainwashed" prisoners of war victims of kidnapping and abused children; later his research included post-traumatic stress syndrome, alcohol and drug abuse, pain, sleep problems, dreams and hypnosis. He was able to overturn many pre-existing conceits of the psychiatric community and those of the community at large.

West examined Jack Ruby, the killer of John F. Kennedy's assassin Lee Harvey Oswald, and helped convince the court that Ruby should not be sentenced to death. Ruby, he said, suffered from "major mental illness" apparently precipitated by the stress of his trial and its aftermath. In 1976, West was called as a court-

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

THE HOUSEHOLD CAVALRY MOUNTED REGIMENT has been reduced to 120 men, the Queen's Life Guards to 100, the Royal Horse Guards to 100, the Royal Dragoon Guards to 100, the Royal Welsh Guards to 100, and the Royal Scots Guards to 100.

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THE HOUSEHOLD CAVALRY M

Theo Mathew

OVER THE last two centuries, the Anglo-Irish family of Mathew has produced more than its fair share of eminent lawyers, leading churchmen and noted eccentrics. A worthy addition to the last category was Theo Mathew.

His grandfather and namesake, Theobald Mathew, was a much-loved barrister; regarded as one of the great wits of his generation, and himself the son of Lord Justice Mathew, who founded the Commercial Court and was renowned for his observation, "Justice is open to all - like the Savoy Grill." The judge's uncle Father Theobald Mathew was so successful in persuading the Irish (and others) to take the pledge that he was universally known as the Apostle of Temperance. Teetotalism was not, however, a general characteristic of this remarkable family.

One of its more recent luminaries was Archbishop David Mathew, whose oracular manner and untidy appearance are engagingly recorded (as are the lives of so many Mathews) in the *Dictionary of National Biography*. The Archbishop made Theo Mathew his heir and assigned him to the ruins of Thomastown Castle in Tipperary, the ancestral property that he had saved from demolition in 1938.

Theobald Mathew was born in London in 1942, the son of Robert Mathew, a solicitor whose early death took place when Theo was barely 12 years old. His mother, Joan Young, was a Somerville graduate, a strikingly attractive and intelligent woman. She, too, belonged to a distinguished family, plentiful in scholars and public servants (Sir George Young, the former Transport Secretary, is her nephew).

After schooling at Downside, Mathew read Modern History at Balliol College, Oxford, and was always grateful for the tuition he received there at the hands of Maurice Keen and Richard Cobb. Cobb's erratic behaviour was a fruitful source of anecdote, and perhaps also an inspiration.

Soon after Oxford he worked for a year at the College of Arms in the office of Sir Anthony Wagner, Garter King of Arms, but then decided to follow in his family's legal footsteps by becoming an articled clerk at the solicitors' firm of Frere Charnley in Lincoln's Inn Fields. However, finding himself unmotivated by the law he was tempted back to the college by Sir Anthony Wagner in early 1969.

Serving as a Green Staff Officer at the Prince of Wales's Investiture in the summer of that year, he was appointed Rouge Dragon Pursuivant in 1970. From then until the mid-1990s he donned his tabard regularly for the Garter Service at Windsor and the State Opening of Parliament, and was proud to play his part in those colourful ceremonies.

He was promoted to the office of Windsor Herald in 1978. In the same year he became Deputy Treasurer of the College of Arms, a post he held for 17 years despite an avowed terror of financial matters. Both as a Pursuivant and as a Herald, he carried on the time-honoured business of his profession. Heraldry had been an early enthusiasm, and he enjoyed designing coats of arms. He also built up a useful working knowledge of the orders of chivalry.

The somewhat leisurely ambience of the College of Arms undoubtedly suited him. He remained in the same set of ill-lit basement rooms throughout his career, providing memorable entertainments from time to time, often in celebration of some curious anniversary or other. The generous dispensing of liquor that characterised these occasions took place under the watchful eye of the Apostle of Temperance, whose bust was prominently displayed, sometimes adorned by incongruous headwear.

Mathew served as an officer of arms for nearly 27 years. Possessing little taste for office administration, he was fortunately able to recruit a succession of reliable assistants. And, although application to the task in hand was not one of his strong points, the considerable affection in which he was held carried him through.

As was said of his grandfather, "Mathew's fame amongst his contemporaries was not based upon his professional career." Among his other skills, he was a superb mimic who could capture certain people so vividly that the individuals themselves often

The generous dispensing of liquor took place under the watchful eye of the Apostle of Temperance, a bust sometimes adorned by incongruous headwear

seemed pale reflections of the "real" selves that he conjured up.

But mimicry was only one aspect of his story-telling ability. He had a great repertoire of anecdotes. Some of them concerned members of his own family, such as his dotty great-aunt Catherine Mathew, who on entering a room claimed to detect a smell of "crushed elephant", despite the obvious improbability of being able to identify such an odour.

He might equally recount some amusing experience of his own. Once, ringing to say that he would be late home, and under the impression that he was talking to one of his mother's lodgers, he asked for his dinner to be put in the oven, adding that he would certainly be back in time to watch *Up Pompeii!* on television. His attempts to impart further information of a domestic nature were interrupted by the words "There must be some mistake. This is St Arthur Bliss." The bewilderment recipient of the call was the Master of the Queen's Musick, whose phone number differed by one digit from that of the Mathew household. By dialling the wrong number, Theo Mathew had acquired another anecdote.



Rouge Dragon Pursuivant, 1970-78; Windsor Herald, 1978-97

He dabbled in a variety of extramural pursuits. He once stood as a Liberal candidate in the local elections, and it is a matter for regret that Westminster City Council was not given a chance to enjoy the offbeat contribution he would doubtless have made to its deliberations.

He was for a time part-owner of a boat ("Tinker Liz") and belonged to the Royal Harwich Yacht Club. He was also a member of the MCC (cricket being a great passion) and the Athenaeum, where his infrequent visits provided something of a diversion for the staid members of that august institution.

For most of his adult life Mathew lived in St John's Wood, north London, in a house of distinctive (if faded) charm; its many temporary inhabitants included at least one Booker prizewinner. Retiring from the College of Arms in 1997, he abandoned London and settled in West Mersea on the Essex coast, where he had spent happy riding holidays in his youth.

Stories about Theo Mathew will assuredly abound for years to come. A lingering image from recent times is of him removing his glasses, rubbing his hands together and squinting in a concentrated fashion at whoever happened to swing into view; he might then utter a grunted "Woolf!" - or else (in imitation of a familiar ducal voice) give a mild bark of the words "Now look here!"

I recall a July evening in 1971 when Mathew, armed with a trumpet that his mother had unadvisedly given him for his 29th birthday, attempted to play the instrument while sitting outside the Sir Christopher Wren public house, close to St Paul's Cathedral. Although understandably attracted by the notion of blowing his own trumpet, he had no idea how to, and the excruciating noise that emerged not only disconcerted his companions but astonished a number of passers-by and eventually attracted the attention of the local constabulary.

One has only to think of Theo Mathew to chuckle fondly at some memory. He could be madly exasperating; he could be gloriously funny. There was no one quite like him.

P. L. DICKINSON

Theobald David Mathew, herald: born London 7 April 1942; Rouge Dragon Pursuivant of Arms 1970-78; Windsor Herald of Arms 1978-97; died West Mersea, Essex 24 December 1998.

GAZETTE

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

MEMORIAL SERVICES

HEYMAN: A memorial service will be held at Temple Church, London EC4, at 5pm on Thursday 14 January 1999, to commemorate the life of Allan Heyman QC.

IN MEMORIAM

FORT: Dorrit Klar, always remembered and missed.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In memoriam) are charged at £5.00 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements (notices, functions, forthcoming marriages, Marriages), are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am; 1st Battalion Welsh Guards mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Scots Guards.

FORTHCOMING MARRIAGES

Dr S. W. Coppel and Dr J. Patel The engagement is announced between Simon of the late Mr Samuel Coppel and of Mrs Coppel, of Wakefield, and Jigisha, daughter of Mr and Mrs Natarajan D. Patel, of Uttersanda, India. The marriage will take place on 22 January 1999.

BIRTHDAYS

Sir Graham Allen MP, a Lord Commissioner, 46; The Right Rev John Baker, former Bishop of Salisbury, 71; Mr John Rashleigh Belcher, thoracic surgeon, 82; Lord Bowes, writer, and former Director, Henry Moore Foundation, 71; Miss Kathleen Byron, actress, 76; Miss Anna Calder-Marshall, actress, 52; Mr David Cecil, racehorse breeder, 56; Mr Henry Cecil, racehorse trainer, 56; Mr Jean Chretien QC, Prime Minister of Canada, 65; Mr Jason Connery, actor, 36; Mr Ben Crenshaw, golfer, 47; Mr Neville Duke, test pilot, 77; Miss Ann Firbank, actress, 65; Mr Barry Flanagan, sculptor, 58; Mr Melvyn Hayes, actor, 64; Lord Leighton of St Mellons, painter, 77; Mr Mick MacManus, wrestler, 72; Mr Brian Moore, England rugby player, 37; Sir Alastair Morton, former UK chairman, Eurotunnel, 61; Sir Anthony Nutting, former

MP and government minister, 79; Mr Bryan Robson, former England football captain, 42; Air Chief Marshal Sir John Rogers, executive chairman, Motor Sports Association, RAC, 71; Mr Arthur Scargill, President of the National Union of Mineworkers, 61; Mr John Sessions, actor and comedian, 46; Air Commodore Joy Tamblin, former director, WRAF, 73; Mr Rod Taylor, actor, 70; Mr Ronald Tress, economist, 84.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: II Parmigianino (Girolamo Francesco Maria Mazzola), painter, 1503; Adam Frans van der Meulen, painter, 1622; Daniel Dancer, miser, 1716; Alexander Hamilton, statesman, 1755; William Thomas Brande, chemist, 1783; John Payne Collier, Shakespearean critic, 1789; Ezra Cornell, founder of Cornell University, New York, 1807; John Lodge Ellerton, composer, 1807; Sir John Alexander Macdonald, first prime minister of Canada, 1815; Alexander Helwig Wyant, landscape painter, 1838; Otto Dienel, organist and teacher, 1838; William James, philosopher and psychologist, 1842; Christian August Sinding, pianist and composer, 1856; Fred Archer jockey, 1857; George Nathaniel Curzon, Marquess Curzon of Kedleston, Viceroy of India, 1859; Henry Gordon Selfridge, founder of the London store, 1864; Reinhold Moritzovich Glie, composer, 1875; Maurice Durufle, founder of

organist and composer, 1902; Manfred Bennington Lee (Lepovszky), author of the "Ellery Queen" partnership, 1905; Pierre Mendès France, politician, 1907.

Deaths: Domenico (de Tommaso Bigordi) Ghirlandaio, painter, 1494; Sir Hans Sloane, physician and naturalist, 1753; Louis-François Roubillac (Rouilliac), sculptor, 1762; Emelyan Ivanovich Pugachev, Cossack rebel leader, 1775; Domenico Cimarosa, composer, 1801; Timothy Dwight, scholar and poet, 1817; Friedrich von Schlegel, poet, 1829; François Gérard, Baron Gérard, painter, 1837; Francis Scott Key, attorney and poet, author of "The Star-Spangled Banner", 1843; Theodor Schwann, anatomist and physiologist, 1882; Baron Georges Eugène Haussmann, builder of Paris, 1891; Thomas Gordon Hake, physician and poet, 1895; Cornelius Petrus Tiele, theologian and scholar, 1902; Thomas Hardy, poet and novelist, 1928; Giacomo Ciano, conte di Cortellazzo, former Italian foreign minister, shot by pro-Mussolini Fascists, following a show trial when he was condemned to death, 1944; Caradoc Evans, novelist, 1945; Jean-Marie-Gabriel de Latte de Tassigny, general, 1852; Oscar Straus, composer, 1934; Alberto Giacometti, sculptor and painter, 1966; Lal Bahadur Shastri, prime minister of India, 1966; Richmal Crompton (Lamburn), author and creator of "William", 1969; Padraic Colum, founder of

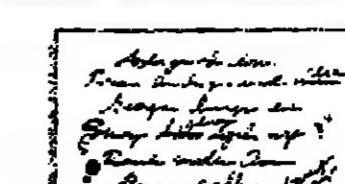
the Irish National Theatre, 1972; Barbara Mary Pym, novelist, 1980; Malcolm John MacDonald, diplomat, 1981; Nikolai Podgorny, Soviet leader, 1983; Jack La Rue (Gaspare Biondillo), actor, 1984.

On this day: the Dutch surrendered Trincomalee, Ceylon, to the British, 1782; Matthew Flinders and George Bass returned to Port Jackson, having proved that Tasmania was an island, 1799; Joachim Murat deserted Napoleon and joined the Allies, 1814; Benito Juarez returned to Mexico City, 1861; Charing Cross station, London, was formally opened, 1864; The Representation of the People Bill was passed, giving votes to women, 1918; the first women jurors were sworn in at the Old Bailey, 1921; King Zog was deposed, and Albania was declared a republic, 1946; the Open University awarded its first degrees, 1973.

Today is the Feast Day of St Theodosius the Cenobitarch and St Salvius or Sauve of Amiens.

LECTURES

Victoria and Albert Museum: Tess Murdoch, "Huguenot Designers", 3pm. British Museum: Angela Hobart, "The Interplay of India and South East Asia Artistic Traditions", 11.30am. Wallace Collection: Jennifer Stern, "Introduction to Sevres Porcelain", 1pm.



LITERARY NOTES

WENDY HOLDEN

Bursting bodices and romantic beheadings

WHEN I was a child, my favourite book in the world was neither *The Wind in the Willows* nor *Winnie the Pooh*, but a battered volume in my parents' bookcase called *The Tower of London*.

A fictionalised history of the eponymous palace/prison, it was by someone called Harrison Ainsworth, who appeared on the title-page as upright and bewiskered as any Victorian gentleman could be. The fact that he had depths of the utmost gruesome Gothic purple was vouchsafed only to those who, like me, ventured into the murky passages dealing with the final hours of such romantic characters as Lady Jane Grey, who saw her husband's decapitated body while en route to the scaffold herself; or Archbishop Fisher, practising beheading at the stake by putting his hand in the fire of his prison chamber.

If the old martyr's veins snapping and crackling in the flames were, so to speak, hot stuff, even that paled beside the high drama of the death of Anne Boleyn. The pages would fall open at the description of her sallow-black eyes and mysterious sith finger and her enduring legacy was that, for years after, I imagined an executive to be someone dressed in a black mask and wielding an axe. From the moment I picked up the book, I was addicted to historical fiction.

I eschewed television for a pile of mint-green Georgette

eyes. This, I suspect, accounted for the old ladies' interest as well.

Although historical fiction seems to be enjoying a revival of late with Pat Barker's *Regeneration* trilogy and Sebastian Faulks's *Birdsong*, these works seem to have acquired a literary and even quasi-academic status apparently bent on removing them as far as possible from the bedjack brigade. A pity, as is the fact that Jean Plaidy, Barbara Cartland and Georgette Heyer have been relegated to much the same status in the eyes of the literary establishment as the author of the *Wicked Willie* books, or perhaps the no-longer-read Walter Scott. Even Jilly Cooper, reportedly considering writing a historical novel, has abandoned her plans for another orgasmic orchestra. A wonderful configuration of chances to rehabilitate the historical novel has been tragically eschewed.

I've done my best to keep the faith with having a tumblown stately home complete with tumblown aristocratic family in my forthcoming novel, but it barely scales the foothills of Jean Plaidy's Everest-like legacy. For the foreseeable future, it seems, the term "historical novel" will remain a dirty word. Just let them remain dirty books, that's all.

Wendy Holden is the author of *'Simply Divine'* (Headline, £10)

CASE SUMMARIES

11 JANUARY 1999

THE FOLLOWING notes of judgments were prepared by the reporters of the All England Law Reports.

Practice

Gulf Interstate Oil Co and anor v ANT Trade and Transport Ltd of Malta ("The Giovanna"); QBD, Commercial Ct (Rex J) 17 Dec 1998.

THE WORD "shall" in reg 11(2) of the Housing Benefit (General) Regulations 1987 did not deprive the Housing Benefit Review Board of a discretion as to the amount of a reduction in the eligible rent. The amount of the reduction was not automatic or mandatory; it was by such amount as the board considered appropriate. That was the language of discretion rather than of an obligation, always to make a reduction in the eligible rent by the full amount of the difference between the rent and the cost of suitable alternative accommodation.

Richard Drabble QC, Simon Cox (Mass Beachley Muller) for the appellants; Cline Jones (City Solicitor, City of Westminster) for the defendant.

KYRIE BANK v HALL and ORS v YORKSHIRE BANK; CA (Mantell, Robert Walker LJ) 18 Dec 1998.

THE EXPRESSION "any other enactment" in the new s 42(7)(b) of the County Courts Act 1994, introduced by the Courts and Legal Services Act 1990, was not to be read as excluding the 1984 Act itself. Accordingly, the transfer of a mortgagor's possession action to the High Court from the county court could not give the High Court a jurisdiction which, according to the provisions of s 21 of the 1984 Act, was exclusive that of the county court.

John Macdonald QC, Nicholas Le Poerder (Ingham Clegg & Croucher) for the appellants; Ali

in England to satisfy rules governing the form of proceedings in the foreign country. Accordingly, the double actionability rule was satisfied in a case where conspiracy to defraud was alleged, notwithstanding that the conspiracy consisted in an unlawful combination with intent to cause injury and the relevant foreign law did not recognise any such unlawful combination.

Julian Malins QC, Richard Slade, Jonathan Atkin (Shaw & Croft) for the plaintiff; Stanley Brodie QC, Robert House (Olsweng) for the first defendant; the second defendant in person; Schuyler Bloch (Brian Harris) for the third defendant; Nicholas Strauss QC, Craig Orr (Slaughter & May) for the third party.

Local government

v Commissioner for Local Administration, ex p H; QBD, Crown Office List (Turner J) 21 Dec 1998.

THE INTENTION underlying the Local Government Act 1974 was to give redress to those denied redress of any other kind. It was not to provide two remedies; a substantive one by means of judicial review, and a compensatory one through the Ombudsman. Where a party had ventilated a grievance through judicial review proceedings, it was not contemplated that he should have an alternative or additional remedy; such proceedings fell within s 26(6)(c) of the Act, and, accordingly, the Ombudsman had no authority to hear a complaint.

Richard Gordon QC, Ian Wise (Coningsby) for the applicant; Brian Ash QC, John Hobson (Pilkers) for the Commissioner.

the astronauts, "Everything is in copacetic order." John O'Hara thought this synonym for well-drilled was a corruption from the Italian, but the *OED* and the Random House American *Slangs* assert that its origins are uncertain. Wentworth and Flexner posit the Louisiana Creole French *coupe-séte*.

WORDS

CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE
copacetic, adj.

Harlem, became a dance group's name, and, 50 years on, went across the

Why Americans have a love affair with drugs

DO YOU know what I really miss now that I live in America? I miss coming in from the pub about midnight in a blurry frame of mind and watching *Open University* on TV. Honestly.

If I were to come in about midnight now all I would find on the TV is a series of nubile actresses disporting in the altogether, plus the Weather Channel, which is diverting in its way. I grant you, but it doesn't begin to compare with the hypnotic fascination of *Open University* after six pints of beer. I'm quite serious about this.

I'm not at all sure why, but I always found it strangely compelling to turn on the TV late at night and find a guy who looked as if he had bought all the clothes he would ever need during one shopping trip to C&A in 1977 (so that he would be free to spend the rest of his waking hours around oscilloscopes), saying in an oddly characterless voice, "And so we can see, adding

two fixed-end solutions gives us another fixed-end solution."

Most of the time I had no idea what he was talking about – that was a big part of what made it so compelling somehow – but very occasionally (well, once) the topic was something I could actually follow and enjoy. I'm thinking of an unexpectedly diverting documentary I chanced upon three or four years ago comparing the marketing of proprietary healthcare products in Britain and the United States.

The gist of the programme

was that the same product had to be sold in entirely different ways in the two markets. An advertisement in Britain for a cold relief capsule, for instance, would promise no more than that it might make you feel a bit better. You would still have a red nose and be in your dressing gown, but you would be smiling again, if wanly.

A commercial for the same product in America would

guarantee total, instantaneous relief. An American who took this miracle compound would not only throw off his dressing gown and get back to work at once, he would feel better than he had for years and finish the day having the time of his life at a bowling alley. The drift of all this was that the British don't expect over-the-counter drugs to change their lives, whereas Americans will settle for nothing less. The passing of the years has not, I assure you, dulled the nation's touching faith in the notion.

You have only to watch any

television channel for 10 minutes, flip through a magazine or stroll along the groaning shelves of any drugstore to realise that Americans expect to feel more or less perfect all the time. Even our shampoo. I notice, promises to "change the way you feel". It is an odd thing about Americans. They expend huge efforts exhorting themselves to "Say No to Drugs", then go to the



BRYSON'S AMERICA

drugstore and buy them by the armful. Americans spend almost \$75bn a year on medicines of all types, and pharmaceutical products are marketed with a vehemence and forthrightness that takes a little getting used to.

In one commercial running on television at the moment, a pleasant-looking, middle-aged lady turns to the camera and says in a candid tone: "You know, when I get diarrhoea I like a little comfort." To which I always

say, "Why wait for diarrhoea?"

In another, a man at a bowling alley (men are pretty generally at howling alleys in these things) grimaces after a poor shot and mutters to his partner: "It's these haemorrhoids again." And here's the thing. The huddy has some haemorrhoid cream in his pocket! Not in his gym bag, you understand, not in the glovebox of his car, but in his shirt pocket, where he can whip it out at a moment's notice and call the gang round. Extraordinary.

But the really amazing change in the last 20 years is that now even prescription drugs are advertised. I have before me a popular magazine called *Health* that is chock-full of ads with bold headlines saying things like, "Why take two tablets when you can take one? Prempro is the only prescription tablet that combines Premarin and a progestin in one tablet", or, "Introducing Allegra, the new prescription seasonal

allergy medicine that lets you get on there".

Another more rakishly asks, "Have you ever treated a vaginal yeast infection in the middle of nowhere?" (Not knowing!) A fourth goes to the economic heart of the matter: "The doctor told me I'd probably be taking blood pressure pills for the rest of my life. The good news is how much I might save since he switched me to Adalat CC (nifedipine) from Procardia XL (nifedipine)."

The idea is that you read the advert, then badger your doctor (or "healthcare professional") to prescribe it for you. It seems a curious concept to me, the idea of magazine readers deciding what medications are best for them, but then Americans appear to know a great deal about drugs. Nearly all the adverts assume an impressively high level of biochemical familiarity. The vaginal yeast ad confidently assures the reader that Diflucan

is "comparable to seven days of Monistat 7, Gyne-Lotrimin, or Mycelex-7", while the ad for Prempro promises that it is "as effective as taking Premarin and a progestin separately".

When you realise that these are meaningful statements for thousands and thousands of Americans, the idea of your bowing huddy carrying a tube of haemorrhoid ointment in his shirt pocket perhaps doesn't seem quite so ridiculous.

I don't know whether this national obsession with health is actually worth it. What I do know is that there is a much more agreeable way to achieve perfect inner harmony. Drink six pints of beer and watch *Open University* for 90 minutes before retiring. It has never failed for me.

Extracted from 'Notes from a Big Country', published by Doubleday at £16.99. Available at all major bookshops or by mail order on 01621 675137

We row because we're so close

Claude

I had never thought of Claudia running the scooter shop. I felt that it wasn't the sort of thing for a female to do. Sometimes there can be a lot of verbal, with teenagers swearing. It's not that they mean anything bad – you wouldn't say anything on your own – but you can't accept it if your daughter is there.

So it can be difficult. Claudia came to the shop about a year ago. It's been in the family since just after the (Second World) War. I took over when my father died in 1951. We sell and service Piaggio scooters which makes the Vespa range. I didn't try to persuade Claudia to work here. She had been working at a beautician's and she also ran a lingerie shop. She's brainy, not like me – she has six O levels –

but she wanted to come.

On television I know we are always rowing, but we get on well really. It's just that sometimes she comes in late in the morning. We row about that. She is very flamboyant. That's not wrong – but it gets on my wick. She's a modern sales person. I'm the old style. She laughs with the customers. But I won't laugh when I'm trying to make a sale.

She tells the mechanics to do something without asking me. She orders parts – too many as far as I am concerned – with-

out informing me. She has been here 12 months and, to be honest, I didn't expect her to be this good so soon. She has taken over some of my responsibilities. She overwhelms me because she is doing everything too quickly. She came in to help with the selling and now she is running the place.

Claudia was a wonderful child. She never played up. We never had sleepless nights with her. She was very inquisitive – she got that off me. She isn't scared to have a go. It was her idea to let the television cam-

eras in, because she's not shy. I suppose I've got stubborn. You do as you get older. I still think this isn't a place for a woman to run on her own. There is a lot of responsibility. There are eight male mechanics and they need a bit of prompting by a man. Maybe they would ignore a young lady. It's very different from a lingerie shop.

I've said I would retire at 65, but I think I'll find that hard. I've been on scooters since I was 16. I relate to the teenagers who come in here, because I feel like I am one of them. I still go on

the odd run to Margate but I don't wear Mod suits. Mine wouldn't fit me. I've still got my handmade windcheepers. My feet are too big for them now.

Claudia is very special to me. We're a Continental family from Sardinia. Very close knit. May-be that's why we row so much.

Claudia

Dad didn't want me to work in the shop. He didn't think it was a place for a woman. He is an old-fashioned, traditional gentleman. When I was a child he did everything with me. We went all over the country in a VW caravanette at weekends. He taught me how to ride a bicycle. But I didn't get a scooter. My brother got one. It was because of the way I drive a car. Or maybe it was just because I was a girl.

He is not totally sexist. He doesn't want me in the kitchen and he wanted something better for me than a greasy shop. He was accepted for St Martin's College of Art, but he left to help my grandad with the business. He knows that I am creative too, so maybe he wanted me to do something along those lines.

This past year has been a

time of big changes. Last January I left my flat, cut my hair short, split up from my previous



Claudia is a modern sales person. I'm the old style,' says Claude Michael Nicolaou

relationship, and started at college learning how to sing. I was born in a way I've been learning about a new me that I have kept hidden from myself and the world.

I saw how busy the shop was becoming, how stressed Dad was, and I was worried about him. He had a heart attack a few years ago and I felt that if I didn't help then it might happen again. The job is interesting. I've never sold anything like this before. I was a tomboy as a child, and I like working with men. They're more straightforward than women.

Of course I fight a lot with my Dad. You can see that watching *Paddington Green*. The tempers fly and the emotions run high. He doesn't let me get involved and do things I know I

can do. Just bits of stock ordering, pricing up. He is used to doing these things himself. But he doesn't realise how busy the shop is. That is frustrating.

He is good with people and his experience with bikes is phenomenal, but my forte is organisation and sales.

I'm more than capable, but if you have been running the shop it is hard to give it up, particularly to a woman. I know he feels overwhelmed, but I'm like that because if I'm not, he won't change. And if he doesn't, then I feel that something will go wrong. So I may be increasing his stress a bit, but time is not on my side. All he has to do is expand the business a bit, and things would get better.

I've tried talking quietly to him, but it doesn't work. I get

INTERVIEWS BY JACK O'SULLIVAN

APPOINTMENTS: I.T.

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Interviews to be held in London Jan/Feb 1999

APPOINTMENTS DIARY

Monday
IT, Science,
Engineering

Tuesday
Media, Marketing,
Sales

Wednesday
Finance, Legal,
Secretary

Thursday
Education, Graduate

Sunday
Public General

Don't forget
to mention
The Independent
when replying
to ads

Continued from page 1
in half an hour, I had my chair – with my name on it! I wonder if he has encountered a lot of racism over the years. Absolutely, he says. He was once called a "wog" and beaten up by skinheads on Waterloo Bridge. He never especially enjoyed *It Ain't Half Hot, Mum*. "Rather offensive and untruthful." But: "I forgive. It is essential to forgive. Otherwise it stunts the growth."

He was born in the Punjab, the oldest son of a doctor. I think he was possibly highly sexed from the word go. He first fell in love at five years old with Rasheeda, who was four. "Her ayah used to take her to the park where my ayah took me. She was a very beautiful girl with long hair. On the days she didn't turn up I would cry and miss her terribly but the smile would come back to my face the moment I saw her again."

At school, he was small and quite weedy so, to avoid bullying, he entertained the other pupils with imitations of the teachers. After university (where he got a first in English Literature) he helped set up an acting group in Delhi. In 1951, they put on a performance of Jean Cocteau's *The Eagle Has Two Heads*, in which his co-star was a certain Madhur Babbar. The two fell "madly" in love, eventually marrying, settling in New York, and having three daughters – Zia, Sakina and Meera, now all grown up. But then the whole thing fell apart after Madhur caught him out

go. "But she was deeply wounded. No amount of crying or kissing her feet could heal that wound." The children, then aged five, four and two, were dispatched back to India, to be brought up by Madhur's sister. "I was devastated. Devastated. The only way I could get to sleep at night was by drinking half a bottle of Scotch." Couldn't you have hung on to the children? "Madhur's father sent them the plane tickets. What He did not want Madhur to

do was to do? I was not in a position to look after them."

He seems, now, to have quite a distant relationship with them. I don't think, frankly, he was ever cut out to be a father. He just isn't the mature or responsible sort. He still comes across Madhur occasionally, and might be a bit jealous of her success. "I hear she has a very nice place in Martha's Vineyard," he announces sulkily. He gets quite annoyed whenever he reads the blurb on her cookery book jackets. "They say: 'Madhur Jaffrey lives with her American husband and three children in America.' No mention of how she got the name Jaffrey! Still, let it pass. Let it pass. Martin! Another glass!"

Anyway, he's now been married to Jennifer, an Englishwoman, since 1980 and he is, be says, very faithful and content. He has just started filming *The Street*, and it's proving a lot of fun. "Everyone is very warm. Ken Barlow said to me: 'It's wonderful, Saeed, to have wonderful actors like you!' I hope he gets up to a bit of hanky-panky with Rita. I hope the nail brush gets to take on the hairdo, and possibly releases poor Mavis on its way. Anyway, time to part. More embraces. More moist kisses. A fight over the bill. 'You must let me pay, darling!' A last cry to Martin and Rachel. 'You won't forget to buy *The Independent* on Monday, will you? A very BIG piece!' And off he happily trots. He's quite a happy man, I think."

New kid on the Street



with a dancer from an Indian dance troupe. He's always been frisky, as I said. Indeed, in his book, he even recounts how he joined The Mile High Club with an American woman in the seat next to him. All very well, but the flight was a shuttle from London to Edinburgh. Quick work, Saeed! "Yes," he accepts, much flattered. Then, quite boastfully: "And I even had to order martinis!"

He did not want Madhur to

double@dutch

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SHAPE OF ARTS TO COME

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arts

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We all need the kiss of the muse

He taught us to hear Bach as Bach heard himself. He thinks we don't take death seriously enough. Where will he lead our minds and ears next? In the first of our series on the future of all the arts, Rob Cowan talks to Nikolaus Harnoncourt

The Austrian-born conductor Nikolaus Harnoncourt has been voyaging through the musical centuries since the early Fifties. He started his career as an orchestral cellist, but while Herbert von Karajan and others were fattening Baroque masters with excess calories (Bach dressed as Wagner), Harnoncourt set out to teach us how Bach heard himself. He introduced us to dazzling early music that we had never encountered before, righted numerous musical wrongs and has latterly brought a huge catalogue of insights to the symphonies of Beethoven, Schumann, Brahms and Dvorak.

Verdi is his next port of call, with *Aida* ("one of Verdi's most widely misunderstood works") as the priority. But what about the theatre music of our own century? Could Gershwin beckon from the horizon? When I last spoke with Harnoncourt, he expressed a love for *Porgy & Bess*. I broached the subject again, but his response was at once mischievous and discouraging: "Simon Rattle once said to me: 'Hands off *Porgy*... that's my field. You stick to Johann Strauss.'"

Youngsters love working with Harnoncourt, and most older players find his ideas refreshing. And yet, pondering the place that music has in the current Western cultural climate, Harnoncourt despairs for our failing education systems. He recalls how, years ago, music and art in general were load-bearing pillars of Western education.

"On the one hand you had language, logic and mathematics," he says, "while on the other, there was art and fantasy." Modern Western culture places more and more emphasis on the logical element, whereas the great philosophers of the 17th and 18th centuries knew how "creative flying" could access various goals that are inaccessible through logic.

"Educational leaders in Western democracy don't really understand most of the crucial problems," he protests. "When I think how 'the state' views the creative potential of children in their care – and how lightly they take that responsibility – well, sometimes I cannot believe it. Becoming a human being now takes second or third place to computer literacy and the ability to shift efficiently from one job to another." We have become mere components in a modular society.

Harnoncourt blames professional pressures for splintering the family unit, but he also cites our faulty attitudes to life – and, in particular, to death. "Orthodox religions are on the decline, and pseudo-religions are on the increase," he



Nikolaus Harnoncourt: 'Becoming a human being now takes second or third place to computer literacy'

observes. "And by pseudo-religions, I mean astrology, drug-induced mental states, that sort of thing. But there is still widespread longing for genuine religious experience. Nobody believes in his own death anymore." He reminds us that although we witness people dying on television virtually every day, "you would not have your own grandfather die in your apartment". And yet, for centuries that was the way things happened. "My own grandfather died in the midst of his family, and we were there to hold his hand." Have we, then, become a generation of spectators?

For Harnoncourt, life, death and what

he terms "the incredible organic beauty of art" are inextricably linked. "The human monkey has his own language," he says; "he can even ask his wife to buy a bread roll at the grocers. That's monkey language. But to say, with Goethe, 'Über allen Gipfeln ist Ruh' (Above all the summits is rest), a monkey could not do that. The reason why we write music and poetry, and why the cavemen painted, is the kiss of the muse. It is a source that we cannot properly describe, but it is essential for the good health of humanity. One thing is for sure, though: I do not know of any art that is not in some small way connected with religion."

Harnoncourt then turns the coin by quoting various of Bach's non-religious works – the hilarious cantata about the evils of drinking coffee, for example – but reiterates his point that to perform, say, the *St Matthew Passion* "purely for its aesthetic value, like taking honey from the bees, that would be a profanation". So, what about the bewildering vicissitudes in current public musical taste? Take by way of an example, the symphonies of Gustav Mahler. Would Harnoncourt ever choose to perform them? He answers with a quiet but emphatic "no". "And I can tell you exactly why," he adds. "When music is so obviously auto-

biographical, when the message 'me, me!' jumps so forcefully from the score – I really cannot stand that. Schubert's music is also autobiographical, but with him you glean the results of his experiences rather than observe the process of personal suffering. All this business of showing your skin and your innards in public, these endless confessions – I can't take any of it. I would personally hate to expose everything about myself."

He adds Berlioz to his list of musical autobiographers. "I cannot touch his music," he confesses. I ask him why. Is Berlioz, like Mahler, too 'neurotic'?

"But don't you also hear some neuro-

Thomas Müller

sis in Schubert's music?" he asks. Not really. Fright, terror, perhaps – but not neurosis. "Maybe," he shrugs, "but I can tell you that those important composers who I do not perform, I cannot perform at all. For example, I have never done Wagner, although I have made several attempts, going through the scores of *Tristan*, *Parsifal*, *Die Meistersinger* – and being thrown back after the first act of *Meistersinger*." And yet next June he will incorporate music from *Tristan* and *Tannhäuser* into a programme that deals with the subject of love and that also includes music by Mendelssohn and Schumann.

"This is the only Wagner I will do," he announces with typical resolve and his reasons make historical sense. "There is a connection with Schumann: the two composers knew each other. Wagner commented on Schumann's opera *Genoveva*; Schumann commented on Wagner's work; Wagner hated Mendelssohn and wrote all those terrible things about Jews – the connections are meaningful, they make sense."

As to the future, and the works that we might expect to hear under Harnoncourt's baton, there are some definite surprises in store. An ongoing love affair with Bruckner ("for me, he is a miracle") will lead to performances of the Seventh, Eighth and Ninth Symphonies – towering masterpieces all of them, Harnoncourt traces an unexpected creative lineage from Bruckner through Johann Strauss to Alban Berg, whereas "my most interesting connection to Mozart – and here you may laugh, like I do – is Offenbach. I would also connect the clear pencil drawings of Offenbach with those of Stravinsky. I have already done Offenbach's operettas *La Périchole* and *La Belle Hélène*, as well as a few pieces by Alban Berg."

All this is a far cry from his typecasting as an "early music" specialist. In a sense, the ever-radical Harnoncourt serves as the ideal creative symbol for our changing attitudes to the future of standard musical repertoire. But how does he view the coming divide between the centuries?

"I feel we are now floating in the middle of some new development," he says guardedly, "and we don't know where our ship will finally find a port. There is also widespread fear that it might all go terribly wrong, and that if the wrong kind of materialism really does take hold – it'll all be finished... I am a pessimist by nature, but somehow I am also optimistic. I don't know the reason, but it is true: I have hope."

Single white clichés

BARS, a 32-year-old celebrity hairdresser is draped upside down over the sofa in her stylish Glaswegian loft having her toe-nails painted by Brendan, her gay best friend. Time was when there'd be no more here than meets the eye; attractive, lonely, middle-aged woman with partner problems being fussed over by a camp consolation prize. The Nineties twist is that now such a couple may well be trying to make babies together. The syringe of semen wagged invitingly, is fast becoming the staple that the sherry bottle waved at the vicar once was in our drama. Bars is upside down because she doesn't want Brendan's precious seed to do little else.

Perfect Days by Liz Lochhead, was a sell-out hit at this year's Edinburgh Festival and John Tiffany's traverse production has now transferred to Hampstead. A strenuous heart-warming piece designed to have

comic tactlessness of these disclosures is too mechanical to be properly telling.

Barb's own interfering mother, Sadie (Anita Scott-Jones) had the opposite problem; widowed young, she was a single mother at the start of adult life and is comically sceptical about the urge to have children. Having a poke round her daughter's bathroom cabinet, she notes that the tube of spermicidal cream next to the Dutch cap is past its sell-by date and helpfully chuck it out. That joke – like the tea-pouring remark, "I'll be mother" which reliably crops up just at the moment when it would be better to keep mum – is symptomatic of a play where everything seems to have been worked out in advance, robbing it of genuine life, even in the well-handled farce of the second half. Flannery O'Connor once noted that if a writer does not discover something in the process of



Anne Kidd and Siobhan Redmond Nigel Norrington

writing a piece then it's unlikely that others will discover anything in it either. The characters in *Perfect Days* are moved around like counters in an ingenious board game; they never surprise you into new ways of thinking and feeling about the whole fraught issue of parenthood in an age when procreation has been uncoupled, so to speak from coupling.

For example, the gay man (John Karel) is pretty much a cipher. He has recently shagged up with a stripper-gram artiste whom we never meet and whose feelings on the paternity issue are steadfastly ignored until needed for a sterile plotturn. Not nearly as provocative as *Horatio, the Milkman* will play on these themes, *Perfect Days* left me feeling both entertained and underestimated.

PAUL TAYLOR

To 30 Jan (0171-722 9301)

The return of The King

AS ANYONE who has managed to sit through a whole episode of *Stars In Their Eyes* knows, the desire to dress up as a rock star extends far beyond adolescence. For some, satisfying these urges may involve playing air guitar in front of the mirror, but for erstwhile postman Jim Brown it has signified a drastic change in career. Now known simply as The King, he has recently scored a three-album record deal and on Friday night performed to a packed house as Elvis Presley. But what separates Brown from your everyday Elvis impersonator is the fact that he sings songs by other dead rock stars, in the style of Elvis.

Rather than being met with resigned pity, The King was greeted ecstatically by a crowd that ranged from teenage to middle age, rockabilly to raver. Brown came across as a seasoned performer, having grasped the audience's sympathies with a bit of gentle ribbing. "You thought I was dead, didn't you. Well actually I'm 64 years old, so excuse me if I'm a little out of practice". Hearing Brown purring through such enduring classics as Bob Marley's "No Woman No Cry" and T-Rex's "Twentieth Century Boy" proved entertaining while his rendering of Nirvana's "Come As You Are" would have put tears in the eyes of the most hardened cynics.

Brown had appropriated Presley's Vegas era for his act, sporting a gold lame jacket, leather strides and an unfeasibly large quiff. He perfectly captured his idol through a series of Presley-esque mannerisms: the scrupulous sneer; the slurred delivery and that famili-

iar stance – legs akimbo with one knee furiously twitching. And Brown does sound uncannily like Elvis, right down to that nasal trill when he holds a note. He continued the pantomime in between tracks as he assumed the familiar mumbbling drawl that always made Presley sound like he was halfway through a joke.

There were difficult moments: there was a blood-curdling rendition of Jimi Hendrix's "Voodoo Chile" where Brown's voice became inordinately shrill and the rock histrionics of his guitarist made some members of the audience stare at their shoes in shame. There were also instances where Brown, having seemingly run the gamut of Presley poses, found himself at a loss for something to do. So, in the spirit of karaoke, he resorted to that time-honoured tradition of getting the men and women in the crowd to vie over who could sing the loudest.

But for the most, Brown seemed at ease with his newfound career. And while we were never lulled into believing it was the real thing, it was difficult to remember that up there crooning, sneering and swaggering his way through some of rock's most formidable classics was a postman from Belfast.

FIONA STURGES

A shorter version of this review appeared in later editions of Saturday's paper

Not even a script could save us now

MIME

WOYZECK

PURCELL ROOM
SOUTH BANK CENTRE
LONDON

tinent crammed into the hirsh, extant scenes, lie the ambiguities that have helped sustain Büchner's posthumously established critical reputation.

But even the slightest certainties of story and character have been eradicated here. If you were guided by the programme notes alone, you wouldn't even know the gist that *Woyzeck* is a poor military barber who, prompted by a jealous heart and despairing existential visions (possibly induced by being on a forced diet of peas), stabs to death his common-law wife, Marie – seen consorting with a drum-major. The seven performers, in-

cluding Nadj, do not take named parts; instead, they form a kind of avant-garde collective bound together by an outlandish, clay-spattered dress code (blue face-paint preferable) and gleefully behaviour.

There is one female player, who is the focus of sexually suggestive and threatening attention; but as to whether she dies, it's hard to say – at the end of 60 minutes, she is carried off, still sitting on a chair.

At the start, the statuesque forms ranged across the rustic interior, which centres on a rickety table and chairs and is overset by dangling contraptions, thawing into life, to the cracked recording of a cymbal. In one corner, a hunchback chisels a block of wood; at the back, sits a bound and hooded body; from nowhere there rises up a grotesque creature in a massively padded white outfit who bears an unfortunate resemblance to the Michelin Man but who is, more likely, an abstract embodiment of the play's sinister doctor.

The clownish interactions that ensue, although conducted with a magnificently precise physicality, smack heavily of padded material themselves.

At their best, such as during the deafening automaton drumming of sticks on wood, they

communicate the original's interest in the way humans can be viewed as inanimate objects, at the mercy of their surroundings and nature. At their worst, the routines have an homogenising effect: even the stabbings come with visual gags (bits of intestine are skewed out for our squeamish pleasure). There will be those for whom such brilliantly realised coups de théâtre are enough, but the lack of direction left me with a serious case of road rage.

Dominic Cavendish

Tb Tues, RFH (0171-960 4242). Mime festival continues to 24 Jan (0171-637 5661).

BILLING AS "a free adaptation", Josef Nadj's version of *Woyzeck*, which launches this year's London International Mime Festival, is so free as to render Büchner's seminal play almost unrecognisable. Nadj and his company – Le Centre Chorégraphique National d'Orléans – display an oblique fidelity towards the work's unhinged, absurdist spirit while banishing every letter of the text, apart from a croaked whisper of the misfortunate protagonist's name. The result is an astonishing series of feverishly intense images that refuses to cohere into an interpretable narrative.

The language of television comedy – it's a living, breathing thing. And in America, it's a language without words. *Friends* is a prime example of non-verbal communication at its trendiest. Wah? By John Walsh



The one with the hand gestures

Oh, coo-ul. The fifth series of *Friends* has just started. Across the nation, teenage girls will be pestering their parents to get Sky TV, which recently collared the first broadcast rights to the most popular and very nearly the best, sitcom on Anglo-American TV. There is a decidedly urgent feel about Series Five. For millions of devoted, would-be chums of Ross and Rachel, Joey and Chandler, Phoebe and Monica, it's time for some crucial questions to be answered. Did Ross and Emily go through with the wedding, despite Ross addressing Emily as "Rachel" in the middle of his marriage vows? Will Rachel's heart be terminally broken? Will Monica and Chandler, having unexpectedly woken up in bed together in London, become a hot item back in New York? Can Phoebe's pregnant bump possibly get any bigger? And most important, will the cast ever stop doing that thing with their hands? It's called "voicing". I'm told, in modern dance halls. Back in the Sixties, it was called "throwing shapes". It means going "da-dah!" and holding it for a few seconds. It's something beyond gesticulation, and closer to the children's game of "Statues", where you wave your limbs about expressively, then suddenly stop dead as if in a freeze-frame. It guarantees that the words you utter are emphasised not by the tone of your voice, but by the way your hands are frozen in the air, like a frame around what you're saying. It's a kind of concrete italics. And it's having a pernicious effect on the nation's youth. British children are starting to mutate into a lot of continental hand-wavers.

There's a whole generation of puissant British kids whose conversation now aspires to the smart-ass, ironical rhythms in which the Manhattan sextet communicate, as if that were the only way for human beings to speak.

Will the cast ever stop doing that thing with their hands?

plaining". My six-year-old son began saying it when refusing to eat his supper. Rachel's hairstyle, Chandler's dandyish one-liners ("Well, it could have gone worse" he says of Ross's wedding-day blower in Episode One, "He could've shot her"), Phoebe's terrible songs, all spawned a few thousand emulators.

And now, gesture. No television show has ever featured such variety and prodigality of gesticulation. No television show could possibly

The best of *Friends*: no show has ever before featured such variety and prodigality of gesticulation

feature more, unless it were a soap opera about a bunch of argumentative and cackled Sicilian market traders. The *Friends* lot are always going "da-dah!", but with endlessly sophisticated refinements. At the climactic moment in Episode One, when the newly-married-but-instantly-abandoned Ross asks Rachel if she'll come on his honeymoon to Greece, Rachel goes into a dizzy little tremor of indecision; nothing happens for five seconds, six, seven. Then she bursts into action. "Yes I can do that" she cries, head thrown back, hands dramatically clenched. "Oh cool" says Ross, giving a double-thumbs-up sign. Both of them behave as if they're playing charades instead of having a conversation. Chandler is always explaining things, pressing thumbs and middle fingers together with fake precision. Joey always seems to be holding up something and pointing at it dramatically, as though he's in a commercial. And lately he's taken to flouncing out of rooms with a double-wrist gesture (like someone asking to be handcuffed) that's never explained but always gets a laugh.

Gradually you see that each character has a gesture that's uniquely his or her own, a sort of manual idiolect. Rachel's gesture is to extend the fingers of both hands and press the tips into her temples, as if constructing a roof to ward off the bad luck that's about to befall her. Ross's is to turn both his hands into guns, with forefingers extended, and level them ballistically at whoever has annoyed him. Chandler's is to make a lightning sketch in the air with both hands, wriggling his whole body in serpentine counterpoint, as if to insist on the funkiness of his plans. Joey's is a simple, expansive, Italianate extending of both arms, palms upward, a demonstration of innocence. Monica's is to hold both hands up to her cheeks in fake horror, like a beautified Munch Scream. Phoebe's is to waggle an admonitory forefinger and make her whole arm tick metronomically back and forth. Look out for them; they come round all the time. Episode Two is particularly rich in gesture. If you were to press the fast-forward button, you'd swear you were watching a group of St Vitus Dancers

patients attempting to chat each other up in sign language.

What does it tell us about American comedy? Only that it isn't like British comedy. We tend to shy away from excessively broad comic acting unless it's to suggest that a character is a complete prat (*Vivian in The Young Ones*, springs to mind). We have not gone in for huge facial gestures since the heyday of Albert Steptoe.

Each character has a gesture that is uniquely his or hers

to. You do not find Delboy and Rodney mugging for the camera, any more than did Captain Mainwaring and Sergeant Wilson: their expressions alone are usually enough to get the laugh. And the national genetic inheritance that makes us suspicious of hand-wavers and cheek-kissers in Marseilles or Rome translates into a shyness about throwing your limbs about the place. From Birds of a Feather to Blackadder to The New Statesman to Men Behaving Badly, British comedy is more typically

about odd-looking and semi-articulate people sitting around inventively rude to each other.

In American sitcoms like *Friends*, *Seinfeld* and *Frasier*, if one can generalise so recklessly, what's happening on screen isn't so much acting as performing. Each of the characters in *Friends* has a turn to do, using the other five as an audience (perhaps this accounts for a suspicion that occasionally creeps into your head that, for all their togetherness, the six don't actually know each other terribly well).

Each has a form of delivery, a conversational tic, that's been virtually patented – so Phoebe must keep up a flow of slightly crackpot insights and Joey must always show signs of regressive infantilism. Such individual requirements makes actual dialogue, actual conversation more and more difficult to write. Therefore, everything must be emphasised, to suggest that every small plot twist, every minor narrative point has an importance. That's why watching *Friends* can be an exhausting experience.

Friends continues on Thursdays at 9pm on Sky1

THIS WAS THE WEEK THAT WAS

Today On this day in 1969 Richard Crompton died, in the middle of her last *Just William* story. She had lived long enough to see her delinquent creation turned into card games, jigsaws, "magic painting" books and a television series starring child actor Dennis Waterman.

Tomorrow In 1895 Henry James jotted down in his journal a tale heard at a dinner party, which became his novel *The Turn of the Screw*: this then begat Benjamin Britten's opera, as well as the film version with Deborah Kerr, below, (*The Innocents*) and Michael Winner's prequel *The Nightcomers*, sometimes known as "The Turn of the Screwy".

In 1978 the executors of Lady Churchill admitted that two decades earlier she had burnt the Graham Sutherland portrait of Winston, even though Winnie had called it "a remarkable example of modern art".

Wednesday The first ever "outside broadcast" was made from the Metropolitan Opera House, New York, in 1910. Cavalleria Rusticana and Pagliacci were picked up by five radio receivers nearby and also by several ships in New York Harbour, in one of which 250 guests strained their ears to catch the crackly high notes.

Thursday In 1938 Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, Walt Disney's first full-length Technicolor cartoon, premiered in the US. In London it later received a severe A certificate instead of a child-friendly U.

Friday The Russian Imperial Ballet gave Tchaikovsky's *Sleeping Beauty* its first performance in 1890. The story was from Charles Perrault's 1697 *Tales of Mother Goose*.

Saturday One of the worst riots in theatre history was caused in 1769 when a conjuror, who had promised to squeeze himself into a quart bottle and "sing several songs", failed to turn up at the Haymarket.

Sunday Roger Ruskin Spear, painter and founder-member of the absolutely barking Bonzo Dog Doo Dah Band, died in 1990.

Konstantin Stanislavsky was born in 1863; his work inspired Lee Strasberg to devise the "Method" style of acting, which lives on in pianist exercises: Be a python, Marlon.

JONATHAN SALE



VIDEO WATCH

MIKE HIGGINS

The Simpsons

The Last Temptation of Homer, £12.99
BART WAS the undisputed star of *The Simpsons* when it first came out – he had the novelty hit single and the line of licensed goods to prove it.

Even from its early series, though, it was very clear that its creator Matt Groening was "of Homer's party" – whether he knew it or not is open to question. Bart's layabout, venal excuse for a father was a writer's gift, the couch potato spirit of Springfield made flesh (yellow flesh, naturally, and a lot of it).

These catchphrases alone show to what extent Homer has elbowed his first-born out of the way (a typically Homer thing to do, as it happens): Homer's exclamation – "Doh!" – is everywhere, while no one's been told to eat their shorts for years.

Which brings us on to *The Last Temptation of Homer*. Four episodes selected for



their insight into the man about the Simpson house: Homer gets hair and promotion (*Simpson & Delosh*); Homer thinks he's been poisoned by a deadly blowfish in a Japanese restaurant, and has 24 hours to come to terms with his life (*One Fish, Two Fish, Blowfish, Bluefish*); Homer gets landed with the kids and the house (*Homer Alone*), and Homer gets a new career as a

manager of a country music starlet (*Colonel Homer*).

All good, as usual, but check out *One Fish* for that follows Homer's first encounter with sushi.

Frasier
Box Set, £29.99
CHANNEL 4 schedulers know what they're about. After a Friday evening dollop of the sublime – but saccharine –

Friends, there's nothing better than a dash of *Frasier* as a nice, tart antidote.

Come to think of it, both sitcoms show the incestuous consequences of over-crowded apartments. Unlike the storm-in-a-tea-cup-kiss-and-make-up this is the late twentieth century, however: *Frasier*, Niles, their dad and their housekeeper, Daphne, just about manage to run along together – which is just as it should be.

What's more, it's rare that a great sitcom spawns an equally good successor. But *Frasier*, son of *Cheers*, showed it was possible, and these 12 episodes, comprising a "best of" selection, are as good a proof as any. I suppose it was inevitable that the show's star, Kelsey Grammer (pictured), would attempt a film career (see your local video store's bargain bin). It's so needless, though. What comic actor wouldn't give his right leg to be immortalised as that peerless complex of neurotic pretensions – *Frasier* Crane?

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Legal Notices

In the Master of B & B INVESTMENTS LIMITED

And in the Master of the Insolvency Rules 1986

In accordance with Rule 4.106, I, Stephen John Adeshaw of Fontham Luton, 41 Castle Way, Southampton SO14 3BW give notice of my application for liquidation by a resolution of the members.

Notice is hereby given that the creditors of the above named company, which is a limited liability company, may file a claim for payment before 15 February 1999 to whom at their last known address, their address will be the same as the registered office of the company, and the names and addresses of the solicitors, if any, to whom the claims are to be addressed.

Notice is given that the application for liquidation was filed with the registrar of companies on 30th December 1998.

Dated this 5th day of January 1999
Stephen John Adeshaw, Fontham Luton,
41 Castle Way, Southampton SO14 3BW
Liquidator

Note: This notice is purely formal. All creditors have been or will be paid in full.

Dated 5 January 1999

STEPHEN JOHN ADESHAW Liquidator

THE INSOLVENCY RULES 1986

SHAGATAM ENTERPRISES LIMITED

NOTICE OF BANKRUPTCY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to all creditors of Shagatam Enterprises Limited, 13 Wellington Street, Leeds LS1 4JF that David Noel Wilson and Neil Andrew Brackenbury, joint liquidators of the above named company on 23 December 1998 by virtue of a resolution of the members.

Dated 23 December 1998

STEPHEN FRANCIS Liquidator

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
IN THE MATTER OF CTS
TRAVEL (UK) LIMITED
AND IN THE MATTER OF
THE COMPANIES ACT 1986
NOTICE TO MEMBERS
Given in the name of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated Wednesday the 15th day of January 1999, notice is given of the reduction of the capital of the Company by the cancellation of £57,375 Ordinary Shares of £1 each registered with the Registrar of Companies on 30th December 1998.

Dated this 5th day of January 1999
DAVID NOEL WILSON AND NEIL ANDREW BRACKENBURY
Joint Liquidators

To advertise in the Classified section please call Siobhan McCaul now on 0171 293 2347.

10/10/10/10

NETWORK

The digital life of Esther Dyson

She can't remember the last time she went on holiday and only goes home to sleep. So does that make 'the most powerful woman in cyberspace' a lonely workaholic? Far from it.

Melanie McGrath finds she's a woman madly in love... with ideas

I think of who I am as what I've done," says Esther Dyson. It is 11am and the woman *The New York Times* described as "the most influential woman in all the computer world" has already conducted a breakfast meeting, given a press interview, answered a few dozen e-mails, ploughed the hotel swimming pool and been mistaken for Jenny Seagrove by a passing film journalist.

Dyson doesn't like to waste time. It is a relief, she says, to realise that she "doesn't have to do everything". But then, she's already made millions and become a successful venture capitalist, publisher, technological consultant and "one of the 50 most influential people in the New Establishment", according to *Vanity Fair*. Her company, EDventure Holdings, publishes the acclaimed hi-tech newsletter *Release 1.0* and runs PC Forum, the industry's brightest talkshop. Her venture capital fund, EDventure Ventures, nurtures hi-tech start-ups in Eastern Europe and sits on the boards of organisations as diverse as the Eurasia Foundation and the Russian Centre for Internet Technologies. She has the ear of both Bills - Gates and Clinton - and her first book about the Net, *Release 2.0: A Design for Living in the Digital Age* (recently revised and published in paperback as *Release 2.1*) cornered her a \$1m advance and *The New York Times*'s encomium as "the most powerful woman in the Net-erat".

Dyson herself is not particularly keen on the epithet. She agrees that it is probably true, "though unfortunately that's not saying much". At 47, Esther Dyson still looks remarkably girlish. Her hair is cut an impish crop, bleached a weird orange-brown by her daily swim, she fidgets on her seat and she is dressed in a disconcerting mess of "teddy jacket, shapeless pink jumper and mangy jeans, suggestive of both effort and unworldliness.

After the publication of *Release 2.0*, Dyson was criticised for being unrealistic about the Net's prospects, but she insists that her optimism is reserved not for the Net itself "which is just a medium", but for the people using it.

If anything, Dyson wears her heart on her sleeve. It's just that her heart is already taken up. The greatest loves of her life are and always have been ideas.

Everything in her background suggested a career in academia. At 14, she was fluent in French and German and already learning Russian because "my father had been to Russia a couple of times so we knew that Russians were good even though the Soviets were bad and I thought, why not?" The daughter of a prominent mathematician and a famous scientist, Dyson spent her childhood surrounded by intellectuals and their concerns. At 16, she was studying economics at Harvard. It was a heady existence. "My younger brother and I were expected to be clever; everyone was clever - my parents, the other kids at school, the Nobel Prize winners who would

famous parents, she had to struggle to make her mark."

"The whole reason I went into the commercial world was in some sense to establish my own identity," she insists.

Unsurprisingly, she identified more strongly with her father than her mother as a child and admits that even now she is drawn to "what are perceived as masculine values".

Dydy, she claims not to be proud of her father. "I think he's a great guy, but how can I be proud of something that just happened to me?"

The greatest power I have is to show that a woman can be on the Net and be a person rather than a woman'

be automated by self-check-outs, bank tellers will be replaced by increasingly functional ATMs and online banking, and travel agents will be replaced by online booking. These new ways of automating services will create lots of new jobs, but jobs that will require solid computer competence. For example, sales assistants will be replaced by online call centre operators, but they will have to be able to work with the Web and a multitude of other software applications. Will we be forced to employ better educated Dutch, French and German school-leavers to deal with the increasingly complex work in the service sector?

Allowing schools to go without computers is bad housekeeping for tomorrow. It's also outrageous that so much potential talent is being lost owing to the lack of access. Great programmers and system designers come from many walks of life, often from underprivileged backgrounds. We can ill afford to miss out on those

kids who may turn out to be great programmers, but at the moment can't even get near a computer.

There are no easy answers to this problem. According to the schools that do have computers for pupils, a bill of around £1,500 per pupil comes with wiring up a school. Schools must budget for

system support, network support, Internet subscription, upgrades, teacher training, etc. This is the result of squeezing expensive business computing solutions into the classroom. The unfortunate truth is that most schools can afford to spend only about £25 per pupil on information technology. Since the gap between the costs and the available funds is unbridgeable, we must look for other ways of achieving computer education for every child in the UK.

Some companies have tackled

the problem of lack of suitability of business solutions in a school environment. Pavilion Internet is one, having developed a school-environment server for the Brighton area. Called Nina, it takes into consideration the lack of technical knowledge in schools and provides a cheap solution with remote support, low-cost maintenance and all the special requirements teachers need, such as ability to monitor children's online activity and the

blocking of unsuitable websites. But Nina is not free, and therefore is a solution for some schools but not for all.

The bottom line is that without

a concentrated volunteer effort, we are not going to solve the problem. There are more than 1.2 million computer professionals in the UK. If some of us managed to find time to contribute to a local initiative, the task of getting more kids access to a computer and the Internet should be achievable over two or three years.

In the US, General Colin Powell has led the charge with the Alliance for Youth (www.americaspromise.org), a scheme to build up volunteer support for disadvantaged schools and neighbourhoods. Some, such as the National Urban Technology Center (www.urbanitech.org), help inner-city kids to build their own websites and supervises their programming efforts. One centre I recently visited in San Francisco offers free after-school



Esther Dyson: 'I'd love to go to the theatre, play with my nieces and sit on the beach, but the things I'm doing tend to be more interesting' *Kalpesh Lathiya*

comes to our house for dinner," she has said.

When Dyson was five, her mother, the Swiss mathematician Verna Huber-Dyson, took a lover, quit the family and moved to California. Dyson has herself claimed - rather implausibly - that she was unaffected by her mother's departure.

Her father, the eminent British astrophysicist, Freeman Dyson, remembers the five-year-old Esther exclaiming: "Who needs a mother once the milk has gone?"

Perhaps as a result of that rather fundamental abandonment, Dyson grew up with a furious ambition to succeed. Like many children of

she is, she says, "glad to be a woman", but is anxious not to be seen to be a spokeswoman for her sex. "I have enough respect for women to know that they're all different and don't want the same things." Dyson's proclamations on her sex are clearly self-serving.

"The moment you treat something as a women's issue, it's not considered to be serious," she says, though if she were to take up, say, the issue of ensuring women equal access to technology, it seems unlikely that her views would be ignored.

She says she values the traditionally "feminine" values of communication and collaboration that are at the heart of Net culture but does not see that as reason to be an advocate for women. "The greatest power I have is to show that a woman can be on the Net and be a person rather than a woman," she argues. "What people need is role models, not exhortations."

She rejects the idea that being a woman gives her responsibilities towards other women but claims that it has given her an affinity for "people who are ignored".

Which is where Russia comes in. Dyson is a frequent visitor and it is clear she takes her Russian interests very seriously. She recently sank the reported \$1m advance for *Release 2.0* in the Russian computer industry and intends to increase her investments there.

Dyson's almost fetishistic enthusiasm for the erstwhile evil empire

seems to have little to do with personal enrichment. Money is rarely her primary motivation. Already a multimillionaire, she dresses un-

evidently, takes the subway and has lived in the same Manhattan apartment for a quarter of a century. Her only indulgences appear to be first-class air travel and stick hotels.

Perhaps her love affair with Russia is easier to understand in the context of Dyson's own extraordinary restlessness. Russia is, if nothing else, a country in flux and by her own account Dyson loves change. "I thrive on newness and adapting to things and dealing with circumstances," she says. "I pride myself on my ability to ride change."

All of which makes her perfectly placed to be chair of Icann. The system, which allocates domain names and matches them with numerical addresses, was administered until autumn last year under US government contract by a private company, Network Solutions.

At Icann, Dyson's somewhat daunting task will be to rationalise the existing system and to create for it a genuinely international administrative architecture. The kinds of problems that Icann will have - literally - to address range from how to handle non-Western alphabets to disputes over who gets what name.

"I'm going to spend a lot of time going around talking to people, which is what I enjoy," says Dyson about her new role. The new set-up will effectively free the Internet from US government control, creating a series of naming protocols which fully reflect the Net's now well-established international and commercial character.

"Clearly, what we are doing is important because it is a model for

governance, and when your jurisdiction extends outside a single country, as it does with us, you have a lot of responsibility to do it right, which we won't. There will be a lot of trial and error."

Dyson seems vague about the details. "It will probably be 'he who pays the most gets the name,'" she shrugs, and a look of mild irritation spreads across her face when I ask how that will serve anyone but the big corporations. "I don't think anyone is going to be paying a huge amount for, say, my mother's name," she says. But what if your mother were called by Walt Disney because the name had already been "bought"?

It is this contradictory aspect that makes Esther Dyson both beguiling and exhausting. While her personality is, by her own admission, almost spookily self-contained, she appears blessed with a genuinely unwavering appetite for new people and new ideas. A part of her is still innocent, still questing, still in the process of becoming.

A while ago the most influential woman in the computer world had a dream that has gripped her imagination. It was about the year 2030 in the dream. She was living in an old people's home, and her fellow companions were trying to persuade her to go out dancing with them.

"But I didn't want to go. I realised I no longer found the world interesting. I knew that I was ready to die," she recalls.

However her face lights up as she tells the tale. She thanks the photographer and checks her watch for the next appointment. "And you know what?" she continues. "It was a really happy feeling."

We'll all end up paying for computer illiteracy

ACCORDING TO a recent survey of Internet access, only 18 per cent of UK schools have even one computer with a Net connection. This compares with 38 per cent in Germany, 35 per cent in France and staggering 66 per cent in the United States. It is clear that we are falling behind in the cyberspace race.

Since it's taken five years to

wire up just 18 per cent of our schools, at this rate it will take 20 years to connect the rest. That means that not one but several generations will leave school clueless about information technology. To make matters worse, the survey indicates that 60 per cent of computer equipment is located in only 20 per cent of schools. So not just Internet skills, but general computer skills, are failing to be taught. It is impossible to achieve any meaningful IT education if there are 30 students per computer in some schools, and no computers at all in others. We are creating a two-

tier society, with a techno-elite coming from the well equipped schools, and the rest forming an unemployable underclass.

The Department of Education

doesn't seem worried. I recently heard someone from the DoE claim that "there will be plenty of jobs for non-computer-literate people, and besides, we don't want to build up the expectations of kids who will then go to work as cashiers or sales assistants".

The fact that the work of

cashiers in supermarkets is fast

going out of the window, thanks

to self-scanning systems being

piloted in Safeway, Sainsbury's

and other retailers, is obviously

lost on the DoE. Such an attitude

shows that the class system is

alive and kicking under New

Labour, but it also demonstrates

a lack of strategic human

resource planning that will cost

all of us dear in the future, when

we have to pay unemployment

benefit to all those kids.

Within the next three to five

years, sales assistants' work will

be automated by self-check-outs, bank tellers will be replaced by increasingly functional ATMs and online banking, and travel agents will be replaced by online booking. These new ways of automating services will create lots of new jobs, but jobs that will require solid computer competence. For example, sales assistants will be replaced by online call centre operators, but they will have to be able to work with the Web and a multitude of other software applications. Will we be forced to employ better educated Dutch, French and German school-leavers to deal with the increasingly complex work in the service sector?

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computer access to local children, supervised by retired teachers and computer professionals on a rota basis (www.child.net). There is also Chalk (Communities in Harmony Advocating for Learning and Kids), originally sponsored by Apple Computer but now fully staffed with teenage volunteers who help their peers to get into computing. The teenagers can earn pocket money providing PC support for their neighbourhood, but also get a first step on the career ladder through internships with local companies.

The Internet was created and

developed by many people

contributing their time without

pay. Now the time has come to do

it again, to help all of those

children who are not fortunate

enough to live in the catchment

area of a wired school.

E-mail me with your ideas on

providing kids with computing skill, at <

Jobs gambles on fruit machines



Steve Jobs shows off Apple's colourful new iMacs: 'We hope people will want to collect all five'

Apple's boss unveiled a colourful new line of iMacs and a redesigned Power Mac at the annual Macworld Expo. By Richard Kelly Heft

The Steve Jobs show hit San Francisco at the annual Macworld Expo last week; and Apple's acting chief executive had lots of goodies to wow the faithful.

The iMac, which has been a roaring success since its launch in August, is soon to be available in five tasty new colours: blueberry, grape, tangerine, lime and strawberry. As well, Apple's G3 Power Mac has been redesigned along the lines of the iMac in a translucent 'Teal' tower, with handles and a side panel that flips down to reveal the computer's innards.

Buttons bearing the word "Yum" handed out by the company in the new colours seemed to sum up the buzz of the expo. The company that has long thrived on being the rebel of the computer business is truly back. Over the past few years, Apple appeared to have run out of ideas: its designs were drab, it was hemorrhaging money and swiftly losing relevance.

However, with the astonishing success of the iMac last month it accounted for 8.2 per cent of home computer sales, making it the top-selling US model, all that has changed. The new colours put the company back in the business of tweaking the noses of the computer establishment. Instantly, the designs make the traditional PC look downright dowdy by comparison.

"It makes you wonder why it took so long for people to think of coming out with different colours for computers," said Jane Girard, 27, a San Francisco-based website producer.

Almost lost in all the excite-

ment of Jobs's keynote speech was the news that Apple had turned a profit for the fifth straight quarter. It was another important milestone. Before the return of Jobs in late 1996, Apple had suffered two years of knee-slapping losses and faced a highly uncertain future.

There are still long-term concerns: the company must overcome historic problems of inspiring developers to write software for the Mac; Apple has been all but wiped out of the business market (accounting for just 1 per cent of sales last year); and there is the cold reality of a world dominated by the Windows platform.

Jobs's speech was such a hot ticket that enthusiasts began queuing up at 5.30am

But what Apple lacks in numbers it appears to make up for in devotion. How else can you account for the drawing power of the messianic Jobs, whose speech was such a hot ticket that enthusiasts began queuing up at the Moscone Convention Center at 5.30am. Bill Gates would have to offer free shares in Microsoft to draw that kind of crowd.

Jobs, 43 and increasingly round-faced saved his candy-coloured iMacs for the grand finale. The products drew gasps from the crowd. "We hope people will want to collect all five," he deadpanned.

But a small, inexpensive product that might be as

important to Apple as all its fancy new colours is a new piece of software. Silicon Valley-based Connectix released the Virtual Game Station, a program that for \$49 promises to turn an iMac or G3 into a Sony PlayStation. Although not all titles run well, the company lists hundreds of games which are said to run almost seamlessly - a big boost for Apple because of the relative dearth of games written for the Mac. Jobs also announced that new versions of a dozen popular games such as Quake, Myth II, Sim City and Fly! will be available in the next six months.

Increasingly, software companies are taking the platform seriously. John Geleynse, Corel's Macintosh product manager, said his company committed a "huge cultural faux pas" when in 1996 it released Draw 6.0 for the Mac - "essentially a Windows product we converted to run on a Macintosh". Geleynse said that for the just-released version 8.0 they started from the ground up designing for the Mac. "With the success of the iMac, we have a lot of other products we intend to bring to market. It has opened our eyes as to what we have to develop."

Although not everyone was over-impressed with the new designs, particularly that of the new G3, which looks derivative of the iMac but less attractive, Apple disciples seem most pleased that the company is back on its feet.

"The bottom line is, if it gets more people to buy Macs, I think it's a good thing," said James Jardine, a PR consultant, of the G3. "Owning a Mac is sort of like a religious feeling. You want to see them [Apple] do well."

Tools of the trade put to the test

WEB DESIGN



JASON CRANFORD TEAGUE

IF YOU sit still in this business, events will rapidly overtake you. But that's not always a bad thing. Last week, I had planned to do a review of Web design software but then decided to talk about the state of Web design, recapping events for the New Year. So my reviews of GoLive's CyberStudio and Macromedia's Dreamweaver were delayed until today. In the small space of a week, everything changed when Adobe Systems, the largest provider of imaging software technologies, acquired GoLive, including its assets, chief among which is CyberStudio.

Adobe has its own Web design software, HomeSite, but although it was an early contender, it never really caught on. CyberStudio, on the other hand, is the top-selling Web design software for the Mac (it is currently a Mac-only program).

So, while Netscape and Microsoft square off for the hearts of Web surfers, Adobe and its chief rival, Macromedia, battle for the hearts of Web designers - both offering a suite of programs to get you from concept to product quickly and attractively. Macromedia offers Freehand, Fireworks and Dreamweaver. Adobe offers Illustrator, ImageReady, PageMill and, now, CyberStudio.

A few months ago I reviewed Adobe and Macromedia's bitmap software (Net address: www.independent.co.uk/net/900817ne/story5.html), but what about the Web design software? Let's take a look.

CyberStudio Professional Edition 3.1, £250

www.golive.com

CyberStudio started life as a complete HTML creation package that has evolved to include JavaScript, Cascading Style Sheets and Dynamic HTML capabilities. It includes these tools in an easy-to-use environment with all of the various tags conveniently located and alterable from its various palettes, which allow you to see those changes as you make them.

You can work in Layout mode that provides WYSIWYG capabilities. Frames mode for editing the frames content of the page. Source mode for editing the raw HTML source, and, finally, Outline mode, which is really useful for seeing the structure of a Web page.

CyberStudio checks your code and predicts download times as well as alerting you to potential problems in various browsers, not to mention checking all of your links to ensure that they are valid. You can add new tags or change the attributes of existing tags as new standards become available.

CyberStudio also includes an excellent FTP client and site management tools. Various options allow you to manage your site and even selectively upload only those files that have been changed since the last upload. The feature list goes on and on, but almost everything that you could want to do with a Web page is possible using CyberStudio.

Dreamweaver 2.0, £299

www.macromedia.com

While CyberStudio started as an HTML program that integrated DHTML components, Dreamweaver started as a DHTML program that has integrated more and more HTML components. Dreamweaver is primarily a WYSIWYG layout program that allows you to preview the final results as you create the page. Although you can view the HTML code with the press of a button, Dreamweaver relies upon third-party software to provide rigorous HTML editing capabilities. For the Windows version, this is Allaire's Homesite program (www.allaire.com) and for the Macintosh version Dreamweaver uses BBEdit (www.bbedit.com).

One really handy feature of Dreamweaver is the "Cleanup HTML" command, which will go through the HTML code and eliminate redundant or unnecessary tags. Not only does this look a lot more professional, it

can also save a lot of download time by making your code more compact.

Dreamweaver includes a bevy of other tools and utilities such as FTP and site management, as well as the ability to create templates that separate the content from the design. Dreamweaver is already ready to tackle new Web technologies such as XML (Net address: www.independent.co.uk/net/900817ne/story6.html) without blinking an eye.

Macromedia has worked hard between releases to turn Dreamweaver from a simple DHTML generator into a fully featured Web design program, and the results are quite impressive.

Recommendation

Before the release of Macromedia Dreamweaver 2.0 just a month or so ago, the choice was clear: GoLive CyberStudio was the hands-down winner. However, with this current release, Macromedia has taken great strides towards balancing that picture.

Still, CyberStudio comes out ahead on several crucial features. First, Dreamweaver's lack of an integrated HTML code-editing system is a major turn-off, and its other features do not fully make up for this shortcoming. Second, CyberStudio comes out way ahead when creating Cascading Style Sheets and its JavaScript editor cannot be beaten.

If you are designing on a Mac, you can't go wrong purchasing CyberStudio. But now that Adobe has purchased GoLive, a Windows version is promised soon. If you are on a PC and just can't wait, Dreamweaver is an excellent program. But professional Web developers may want to try Allaire's Homesite by itself first to see if it meets your needs before spending the extra money.

The good news is that you don't have to take my word for all of this; you can decide for yourself. All of these programs offer fully functional versions that will work, free of charge, for one month. Download them from their respective sites and see which one works best for you. Write and let me know what you think about them.

Andy webdesign@minispring.com

An advertisement for Orange Answer Fax. It features a large image of a fax machine with the slogan 'on just one number wherever you are' repeated twice. Below the image, text reads: 'Receive all faxes on just one number wherever you are'. At the bottom, it says 'At Orange we believe that no matter where you are in the world you should never be out of reach. Orange Answer Fax is your own personal fax service. It allows you to receive all faxes on one number, and then collect them on the nearest fax machine whenever it's convenient for you. For more information on Answer Fax or other Orange innovations call 0800 323 000. The future's bright. The future's Orange.' The Orange logo is at the bottom right.

new line of
Mac at the
Kelly Heft

MY TECHNOLOGY

The naked photocopier

The anthropologist Desmond Morris made his name with pop-science bestsellers such as 'The Naked Ape' and 'People Watching'. But he is also an artist who finds colour copying a boon

There are people who are frightened of technology, who are scared of new fangled things. Some friends of mine would almost prefer to work with a quill pen. And quite famous authors still do long hand in little exercise books. But I got accustomed to technology, thanks to my childhood. My father was a writer, so when I was very small he gave me a proper typewriter and I could type almost before I could write. I resisted the computer until ten years ago because I loved my IBM typewriter, a big, black elegant machine. But the electronic "cut and paste" facility on a computer was something an author who loves to fiddle around with words couldn't ignore.

My favourite technology is my colour photocopier. It's the most useful piece of gear I have had since I got my computer. I first got interested in having a colour copier when I was doing an interview for a television programme at a cartoon studio in Los Angeles, where inevitably they had amazing technology. There was a magnificent colour copier. I found out they cost something like £15,000. However, then Hewlett Packard produced one for only about £700 - the OfficeJet Pro 1150C.

The quality is absolutely wonderful. The reason it was cheaper is the plate is smaller at A4. The copier is quite small and can sit on my desk next to my computer. How I use it is rather strange - I put objects on it. I am writing a book of lucky charms and many charms are very small, so I put them on the colour copier, enlarge, reproduce and file these copies away. The alternative would be to go through the gallery of photographing them. I use the photocopier as a professional photographer uses instant snaps to get an idea of the picture.

Also as a painter I do a lot of colour sketches and again, I can put those or even small canvases on the copier for my own record. At the moment I have paintings on exhibition in Brussels and Antwerp, but before the gallery took them I made colour copies.



Computer watching... Desmond Morris surrounded by his favourite pieces of technology

Hannah Gal

It's not only insurance, it makes a record of the work. I have done one original work on the copier by placing objects on the plate to make a face. It was just a bit of fooling around. I have thought of arranging bits of colour paper on the plate like a Matisse - you could have one copy as an original or a 10-print limited edition.

My thoughts about technology is that the human brain is forever inventing new things and it has been doing this for thousands of years, ever since the first flint axe. Technology has enabled us to develop our cul-

ture. Every step we have taken with technology is the result of our most human quality - our enquiring mind. We have an inventive, child-like brain which is constantly playing with new ideas. And this is something that we should cherish.

Saying that, the one piece of technology I think is overrated is the mobile phone. This business of being always available is bad, it means you are never alone with your thoughts. It's too intrusive.

When I discovered computers were so wonderful, I was very extravagant

and got a huge screen, the largest possible, nearly twice the size of an ordinary screen. I am on the Internet and use it for research. Obviously one double checks information from the Net.

I don't shop on the Internet because I feel that, the moment I put my card number into the machine, it's gone into the ether.

Anyone who thinks that all these new fangled things are leading us into trouble is being very stupid. Everything we develop can be used badly, but if the knife was invented for cutting up food, you can't say no to knives

as someone might be stabbed. You can't let technology control you. In the end you have to take the risk.

I am totally in favour of every technological advance. I think anyone who is opposing it is really being incredibly short-sighted. But there is a secret: the technology must always be the servant, and never the master.

INTERVIEW BY
JENNIFER RODGER
An Exhibition of Desmond Morris's currently at the Witteveen Gallery, Amsterdam

The New Statesman New Media Awards

www.newstatesman.co.uk

The Statesman launched its full online edition last month, and with it, a crusade to promote the democratic potential of the Internet. The 1999 Electronic Town Hall Competition offers a series of awards to those who employ the new media to improve accountability and civic participation. Nominations are already being invited, but readers who register online will have a chance to influence the debate before a judges' panel of web designers, politicians, journalists and other low life makes its final decision. Winners of the contest, a joint undertaking with political consultants public - policy.net, will be announced in a special edition of the magazine in June. Meanwhile most of the usual Staggers content

is available free, for now at least, on the upgraded site, including its more traditional competitions: limericks or even haiku inspired by the euro to be submitted by Thursday please.

Vocabulary

www.vocabulary.com

Go link crazy with this innovative service, which will turn any Web page into a palimpsest of dictionary definitions and alternative versions. Enter the URL of the chosen site, and then click on any individual word within it to obtain an explanation from Websters or from specialised medical and computing glossaries or an equivalent term from a thesaurus. A range of foreign language dictionaries will translate the text - with variable success - into French, Italian, Portuguese or Welsh. The online Works of Shakespeare or, more

WEBSITES

BILL PANNIER



obscurely, a page about Poisons and their Antidotes, are suggested for a test run, and text from elsewhere may also be pasted in for analysis.

The Oldie

www.theoldie.co.uk

Richard Ingrams' gerontoxine shuffles into cyberspace in a bid to "overtake the whizzkids on the information superhighway". The former Private Eye editor has now

grudgingly accepted the new medium, despite previous disdain for its youthfulness and trepidness, through the main aim of the rather minimal site seems to be to recruit subscriptions and adverts for the print version. There is a Guide to the Internet for "silver surfers", though the carefully jargon-free suggestions for older Web users (book ordering and scanning family snaps) seem rather tame compared with the usual tone of the mag. A page on how to write an obituary is, however, entitled "Putting the Fun into Funeral". There are details of literary lunches, and a selective online bookstore including usual suspects such as Aubrey Waugh, along with odder clinches such as Lowry's *Under the Volcano*.

Adopt an MP
www.stand.org.uk
A visit here may not result in a

youthful parliamentarian being delivered to your doorstep in a basket. However, it will enable you to "adopt" (or, as the site puts it, @adopt) an adult version and take responsibility for his or her education in matters digital. The emphasis here is on worrying trends in the Government's encryption policy. Volunteers receive a personalised adoption certificate ("I've adopted my MP!"), that they can post on their own websites, and they are asked to e-mail their political representatives with comments and suggestions once more details of the forthcoming Electronic Commerce Bill have become available. Responsible for this lobbying wheeze is Stand, a loose and insistently single-issue group which is campaigning for secure and uncompromised e-commerce legislation.

TEL: 0171 293 2222

APPOINTMENTS: I.T.

FAX: 0171 293 2505

Information Builders CONSULTANT - IT SUPPORT

Information Builders is a leading company in the supply of high technology data connectivity and information retrieval software. Well known for FOCUS, the world's leading 4GL, the company has in recent years benefited from the development of EDA/SQL, the de facto standard for data connectivity across disparate databases.

You will have a minimum of 5 years experience in IT support, preferably for a Hardware or Software vendor, with experience across the following operating systems and environments: Windows 95, Windows NT, Novell, QSYS and Unix, TCP/IP, Frame Relay, ISDN, Shiva, Wide and Local Area networks. Knowledge and expertise of migrating from Novell to Windows NT, and Lotus CC-mail to MS Exchange Server while not a pre-requisite is preferable. You will need to demonstrate excellent interpersonal skills required for a customer facing position. As well as being capable of working alone you will also need to be a team player capable of developing good working relationships.

Excellent benefits package available

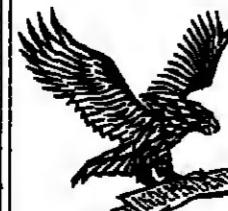
Please send full CV to: Lesley Gazeley, Human Resources, Information Builders (UK) Ltd, Wembley Point, Harrow Road, Wembley, Middlesex HA9 6DE. Tel: 0181 982 4747

ELC Systems (UK) Ltd

Requires IT staff to fill various positions. Applicants should ideally be educated to degree level with a minimum of two years experience in any of the following:

*Oracle *Informix *Sybase *SQL
*Unix *Visual Basic *NT4 *Novel 3.0
*Powerbuilder *Tandem *Focus
*IBM Mainframe Skills including COBOL/CICS/DB2

The successful applicant will be responsible for software development and/or support of software systems and would ideally have a proven track record within this field. Salary will range from £18-28k, according to experience. Please forward your CV to:



To advertise in this section please call
Ransome Kolaru now on 0171 293 2691.

Regen

Cybercentre Manager

Salary: £26,000 per annum

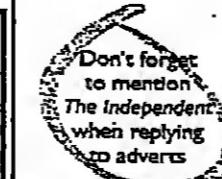
Orient Regeneration (O-Regen) is constructing a major regeneration project to deliver information Community Technology to the communities of South Leytonstone. The project (provisionally called the Cyber Centre) will assist a broad range of clients including young people and the local community.

We are seeking a dynamic Centre Manager to prepare the project for operation prior to its completion in the summer of 1999 and to manage its development thereafter. We are looking for a motivated individual who has the imagination and ability to use ICT to help transform a deprived area of east London.

We are looking for a person with project/centre management experience, ability to recruit and manage a small staff team, work with a variety of community and funding partners and take on the responsibility to take the project to a state of longer term sustainability.

For an application form and information pack, please write to Brian Ward, Orient Regeneration, 7 Kirkdale Road, London E11 1HP or telephone 0181 539 4742 (24 hour answerphone). Completed application forms must be returned by 10.30 am on Wednesday 27 January 1999.

Committed to Service Quality and Equal Opportunities.



quotia Technical Support Services

Support Analysts

Quotia plc, a dynamic and rapidly expanding IT services and consultancy company are recruiting experienced and enthusiastic individuals with a systems programming or systems support background to join our highly motivated team. Quotia provide mission critical guidance and services to businesses in the financial, telecom and retail sectors.

Quotia's Technical Support Analysts are experts in the integration and implementation of Enterprise wide tools and technologies across a range of platforms, which include:

MVS OS/390, CICS, IMS, DB2, IMS DL/1, DBMS, COBOL, ASSEMBLER, PL/I, REXX

WINDOWS, WINDOWS NT, OS/2 WARP, AIX, DB2/2, UDB, SQL SERVER,

ORACLE

You should possess experience of systems and application software implementation, planning, installation, support and maintenance within the boundaries of the above technologies. Excellent communications, and the ability to work on your own initiative as well as being part of a team.

Successful candidates will be required to work at client sites in the UK, Europe and the company's offices in Sussex. An excellent remuneration scheme is commensurate with experience and the industry.

In the first instance forward CV's stating experience and current salary sent to Leigh Boon.

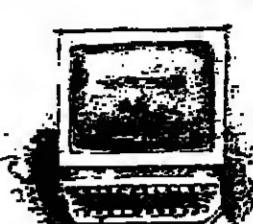
Tel: 01444 250700

Fax: 01444 250520

e-mail: leighboon@quotia.com

BYTES

ANDY OLDFIELD



USE OF e-mail in the UK

is the most highly

developed in Europe,

according to a study

published by BMRRB

International last week.

Drawing on a sample of

12,000 adults in 12

European countries, it

found that a larger

portion of the UK's

Internet users employ

e-mail to keep in contact

with work colleagues

and friends than any other

nation in Europe - more

than 50 per cent,

compared with a

European average of just

34 per cent.

Overall, Internet use

was dominated by

Scandinavia. More than

half of all Swedes,

nearly 50 per cent of Finns and

46 per cent of Danes have

used the Internet. This

contrasts with just under

a third of people in the

UK, Holland, Ireland and

Austria, 25 per cent in

France and Belgium and

20 per cent in Germany and

Spain. Only 19 per cent

of Italians have used

the Net.

bankruptcy for a second time. In October Hayes

for the second time in three years filed for Chapter 11 of the US

bankruptcy code to gain

protection from creditors.

The company, which once

employed 1,300, laid off

hundreds of workers

before Christmas. The

final cuts came after

continuing management

disputes and falling sales.

"The bank said it would

only fund a liquidation,

and not our ongoing

operations," said Ron

Howard, the former chief

executive officer. "The

bank's approach will not

realise substantial value

14/APPOINTMENTS

TEL: 0171 293 2222

I.T.

MONDAY REVIEW
The Independent, 11 January 1999

FAX: 0171 293 2505

Vision I.T. Recruitment Bessborough House 5 Canon Hennett Court Wolverton Mill Milton Keynes MK12 5HF

ERP FOR MANUFACTURING

North Surrey £27,000 to £35,000
Experts on integrating ERP into manufacturing systems. Enabling strategic business decisions through improved Enterprise Integration. If you have this type of manufacturing IT experience, then we have the job for you. A Team environment and excellent training offered.
Ref: MD-105/IN

INTERNET SOLUTIONS CONSULTANTS

West of London Circa £50,000
Consultants/Senior Consultants required to assist clients gain maximum benefit from companies products focused towards Internet billing software through design, implementation and consultancy. Experience preferred in Billing, RDBMS design, SQL, C/C++, Java, HTML or other internet related technologies.
Ref: MB-104/IN

POWERBUILDER DEVELOPERS

London Up to £40,000 + benefits
My client, a leading player in Management and Accounting application development, is urgently seeking 3 expert Powerbuilder developers. You should have a minimum of 2 years' solid commercial experience of Powerbuilder with good SQL and WindowsNT knowledge.
Ref: AP-102/IN

COBOL APPLICATIONS PROGRAMMER

Slough £20,000
Experienced COBOL Mainframe programmers, minimum of 3 years' experience required to develop and enhance market leading financial application software for one of the world's largest IT companies, as part of their European Development team. Any NT or Unix exposure would be advantageous.
Ref: JS-103/IN

"CONSULTANTS NEEDED!"

Guildford, Surrey £40k-£50k + Benefits
Consultants are urgently required with minimum 4 years' IT experience in either electronic commerce, telecoms, or banking. Degree background essential. Practical experience of Full Lifecycle and analysis techniques, e.g. OOAD, SSADM required. Experience in Mobile telephony, Internet/Intranet or smartcards would be an advantage.
Ref: RR-106/IN

VISUAL C++ ANALYST PROGRAMMERS

West London £42,000 + 30% bonus + benefits
An excellent opportunity for experienced Visual C++ AP's, with at least 3 years' commercial experience. As well as broadcasting experience, you will also have in your skill set, Visual Studio 97, ACTIVE X, DCOM, ATL/STL, OOD, Windows95 and NT, Oracle and MTS knowledge. Brill role. Call Pam now on 0171 838 2826.
Ref: PJ-104/IN

PROJECT MANAGER

Harlow £42,000 + 30% bonus + benefits
Leading pharmaceutical company requires a Project Manager to be responsible for the development of software applications. Successful candidates will have four years' software development experience, with two years' project management experience. Knowledge of any of the following RDBMS, Lotus Notes, 'C', SAS, PL/SQL or VB is advantageous.
Ref: CH-103/IN

PEOPLESOF CONSULTANT

Surrey Salary £40,000 - £100,000
Peoplesoft Consultant required to work for a well established and rapidly growing Consultancy. You will lead a team of Peoplesoft experts and will deal with global leaders in all areas. You will be at the top of your field, enjoy a challenge and relish the challenges of working closely with world leading clients.
Ref: GR-107/IN

PEOPLESOF HRMS OR FINANCIALS

London and Docklands £23k to £27k
This Global Co. have openings in their ERP consultancy for consultants, developers and managers with upwards of 12 months' experience of Peoplesoft Financials or HR. If you're looking for a REAL career move, call Darren Liscoe, 0171 839 2626 now! Ref: DL-103/IN

ORACLE FORMS DEVELOPMENT

London City and Docklands £25,000
Major UK software house currently has the need for Oracle Forms developers. You must have acquired at least 18 months' solid commercial experience of Oracle V7 and Forms 4.5. Any additional experience of Oracle Financials or Pro-COBOL would be an advantage. Call Darren Liscoe on 0171 839 2626.
Ref: DL-101/IN

SENIOR SAP-HR CONSULTANT

Greater London £250,000
Senior SAP-HR Consultant required to work for a market leading Global Integrated Solutions company. You will have experience in SAP R/3, preferably in HR. With excellent client facing and management skills, you will be a good motivator with the capacity to manage a dynamic team of consultants.
Ref: NN-109/IN

ORACLE DEVELOPERS

Leeds £22k,000 + Flex Bonus
A major national consultancy has an excellent opportunity for an experienced Oracle Developer to upgrade their skills to v8 on a brand new project site (adding two BIG names to your CV). You will have at least 2 years' Oracle Development experience and a good client facing manner. You will need to be an ambitious individual as career progression is often rapid and training compulsory.
Ref: ID-102/IN

SAP FI CO SD EXPERTS

Derby £50,000+
One of the UK's leading IT organisations has joined forces with one of the UK's most prestigious manufacturing organisations, how would you like to join this force to be reckoned with? You will have at least 2 years' SAP experience with In-depth knowledge of at least 1 of the modules listed above gained within a Project Manager/Business Analyst role.
Ref: PG-101/IN

DELPHI PEOPLE - A FUN SECTOR

London Up to £20,000
How about something different? Fancy working in the Music and Film Industry? A fun-loving and informal (i.e. casual dress) software house requires programmers or developers with at least 18 months' experience in Delphi to help them provide IT solutions to these sectors. Rapid career development for those who want to progress quickly.
Ref: JA-105/IN

Comms/Control

ISDN, LAN/WAN, TCP/IP

Notting Hill £22k - £35k + Bonus
A leading supplier of Network solutions which supports Audio and Video applications also linking WAN/LAN with IP. Have now stepped up their recruitment, principally to work within the token ring division. Engineers with C/C++, and some experience of LAN/WAN and TCP/IP would be an advantage. Send their CV immediately quoting the reference below, however less experienced Engineers should call for an initial chat. You will benefit from exceptional benefits, extra training not to mention excellent remuneration.
Ref: JMW-100/IN

Multimedia/Video Comms

South East £22k - £35k + Bonus
The seriously exciting company are looking for bright people with experience in at least two of the following: C/C++, Assembly, JAVA, HTML, MP3/MP4 and Macromedia Director. You will be involved in the design and development of Digital Video and Multimedia Applications and given the opportunity to progress to a project/management role. CVs should be forwarded to me following a call by the end of next month.
Ref: JMW-101/IN

GSM Software

Nottingham £22k - £35k + Bonus
This dynamic company is spearheading their way to the top in the latest advancement in GSM technology. Due to their success, they require a variety of Engineers from Junior Software with 8 months experience, to Senior Engineers with 5 years experience. You will be involved in Software Design, Test or Development. To qualify for an interview you should ideally have a good Degree/MSc and experience in C, C++, Windows or UNIX, where any DSP, electronic/electrical experience will be extremely advantageous. Ring now.
Ref: JMW-102/IN

SWP

RECRUITMENT Contact Joseph Stowell on 01442 403529
Email: jstowell@swp.co.uk
TECHNICAL Tel: 01442 212555
Fax: 01442 231555
Email: hr@swp.co.uk
Web: http://www.swp.co.uk

3D / Graphics / C++

Nationwide to £35k
Are you a bit of an expert Software developer? Now is your chance to fully explore your potential. We have a number of unusual and challenging vacancies for experienced developers in areas such as digital broadcasting, imaging, medical, games and communications. For a focused approach to your search for new employment send your CV today.

For more information please contact

Pia Hartnell quoting ref: PH052/9

ERS Technical

Ambassador House, 67-89 Market Road, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire HP2 7XK
Telephone: 01442 544200 Fax: 01442 544201
Email: pia.hartnell@ers.co.uk
Web: http://www.ers.co.uk/ers



HEAD OF TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT IM&T

£25,076 (SMP 20)

We are looking for someone to act for, and on behalf of the Director of IM&T on specific areas of responsibility and expertise. You will provide technical delivery of the Authority's strategy across all functions.

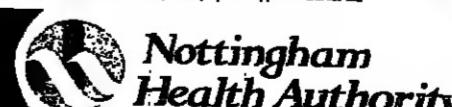
Specifically, you will support the development of the Authority's central information applications and systems, support hardware and software systems to widen the network services available to users within the Authority and its GP Community. You will support the production of a web site for the Authority, taking responsibility for the publication of static and dynamic information.

Additionally you will be accountable for the Authority's computer security and virus policies.

Educated to Degree level in either Electronics or Computing, you must have five years experience of systems management, which must include Digital Open VMS and Pathworks and preferably IBM AIX. You will have technical knowledge of ODBC tools and extensive knowledge of PC architectures, operating systems and applications, especially Microsoft products.

For an application form and job description please contact the Personnel Department, Nottingham Health Authority, 1 Standard Court, Park Row, Nottingham NG1 5GN. Telephone (0115) 912 3344 Ext 49395. Quote ref Tech / Dev. Closing date for receipt of applications is 1 February 1999.

Nottingham Health is working towards Investors in People and equal opportunities for all.



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If you're still dissatisfied you can write to the Press Complaints Commission, an independent organisation established to uphold an editorial Code of Practice for the Press.

THIS NEWSPAPER ABIDES BY THE PCC'S DECISIONS



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This space has been donated by the publisher

APPOINTMENTS DIARY

Monday
IT, Science,
Engineering

Tuesday
Media, Marketing,
Sales

Wednesday
Finance, Legal,
Secretary

Thursday
Education, Graduate

Sunday
Public General

PC and Network Support Engineers • £15,000 - £25,000

Glasgow (ref:6602) • Dudley, West Midlands (ref:6603) • Abingdon, near Oxford (ref:6604)

When a school is a customer of RM, its staff and students expect trouble-free computing, smooth-running systems, and hassle-free, uninterrupted usage. In short, they expect the best. As a Customer Support Engineer, you'll ensure they get it.

Such dedication to the needs of educationalists has made us Europe's No.1 supplier of Information and Communication Technology to education. We provide award-winning software and powerful systems solutions to every sector of education, from universities to primary schools, all backed by technical support that is second-to-none.

We're looking for PC and Network Support Engineers who offer more than technical expertise. For more, To succeed, you must share our dedication to customer service and our passion for innovation. Day to day, you'll deliver valuable technical advice and support over the phone (and occasionally on-site) – answering complex queries with speed and efficiency. But we'll expect more than routine answers: you'll need to think beyond the norm and provide our customers with innovative solutions. Ideally, you'll be educated to HND level with at least 12 months IT experience in PC or network support. We also have some:

BRINGING LEARNING to life

opportunities for Acorn specialists. Cool under pressure and quick to empathise, you'll be analytical and always ready to take the initiative.

We can offer you a highly promising future in an exceptional environment. The package includes comprehensive training, excellent prospects and a range of valuable benefits.

Please send your CV and a covering letter, giving salary details and the appropriate reference for the location you're interested in, to: Steve Gardner, Stamford Long & Partners, 30-32 Whitfield Street, London W1P 8HR. Fax: 0171 304 4433. Or you can apply online via JobSurf on www.job-surf.com.

RM is an equal opportunities employer and all vacancies are open to people irrespective of race, sex or disability.

Full time opportunities, with ourselves and a number of our clients, for developers and IT professionals with 2 to 5 years experience in the following areas:

- Client Server Technology with Power Builder, Visual Basic, Visual C++, Developer 2000, Pro*C and Delphi as front end on Oracle or Sybase RDBMS, Ingres, Open Ingres.
- Oracle DB and Data Warehousing specialists.
- AS/400 with RPG/400, CL/400, Query/400, COBOL/400, DB2/400, Sybase.
- IBM Mainframe with MVS, DB2, CICS, COBOL, VSAM, IMS DB/DC, IDMS.
- C, C++ and UNIX.
- Implementation specialists and Functional consulting for SAP, Peoplesoft and Oracle Applications covering Financials, Manufacturing and HR.
- Lotus Notes and Domino implementation/support specialists.
- NT Server, NT networking.

Candidates must be graduates with at least 2 years relevant experience, flexible and highly mobile. Salaries £22k to £28k.

Selection will be via aptitude, technical and psychometric test and 2 stage interview. Apply in writing (hand written) enclosing current salary details, copies or certificates, latest CV and recent references to the address below. Please quote reference A/98 in all correspondence.

Mr Christian Riches
Forbes (UK) Ltd, Wickham House
10 Cleveland Way, London E1 4TR



THE DREAM LIFE OF ANDREW ELIZABETH
THE HISTORY OF THE STATE
THE MASK OF ZORRO
THE NECESSITY OF THE STATE
MY NAME IS JOE
THE NEGOTIATOR



MONDAY TELEVISION

BBC1
BBC2

ITV Carlton
Channel 4

Channel 4

Channel 5

THE MONDAY REVIEW
The Independent 11 January 1989

ROBERT HANKS

THE REVISON REVIEW



CONTINUALLY TO popular halo, south dedicated curmudgeon, and truth isn't always stranger than possibility good deal more honest. Hanks, but fiction does have to work at it to stay ahead of the game. Shelling the past BBC2 is unashamedly urbane, written and directed by Stephen Hilliard, which works really hard. It has a hard start in the form of "That's All Folks", in which he's forced to turn his back on wretchedness, it winds up opening about of Spud, and ends with the center with the chord of his first kiss.

After that, though, reality is set in a huge photographic

lure which has somehow

slaved off the worst effects

of the 20th century: its

arrangements are humorously

and its perfectly eccentric

staff are unrepugnant, either

socially or professionally,

or directly to the collection.

A lot of blunt oppositions

were set up in the first episode—

tradition versus

modernity,

detectable view that

the family

is the basis of the fabric of

individual nations. The bottom line

versus chivalry and memory.

Polla's argument by years we

saw going against him

stand, though. Soon the elder

Amber (Glyn Cunningham)

was longing over the photos

enriched by moments of

unashamed beauty especially

when we saw her

daughter, it was as if she was

sensitive as Lindsay Duncan's

face.

That is one of the

questions that makes

life so rich and

poignant, like her.

January 16th and 17th

Special episodes chosen

and introduced by the cast

WEEKEND

Kelsey Grammer

My Favourite Episode



Frazier Weekend

January 16th and 17th
Special episodes chosen
and introduced by the cast

1. A NNUAL
COMEDY
FESTIVAL

WEEKEND

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